

EXCLUSIVE: **TOP 100 COURSES** IN THE U.S. AND THE WORLD p. 62

A
Sports Illustrated
PUBLICATION

MAGAZINE

**SHORT
GAME
SECRETS**
p. 52

MAKE MORE BIRDIES!

**5 SHOTS YOU NEED
TO GO CRAZY LOW**

By Tour Winner Patrick Reed

PLUS

TRUMP FIRES BACK

The Donald on His Critics, Courses and Why He's Good for Golf



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Patrick Reed, 25, is a four-time PGA Tour winner and a birdie machine.

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GOLF LINEUP

MAGAZINE

October 2015 Volume 57, Issue 10



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

GOLF MAGAZINE'S 17TH BIENNIAL RANKINGS

P. 62

To flip through our list is to travel the globe.

THE TOP 100 COURSES IN THE UNITED STATES

P. 64

THE TOP 100 COURSES IN THE WORLD

P. 66

ROOKIE SENSATIONS

P. 68

Some big names helped create the 12 new (and newly discovered) courses that join our rankings—with six additions to the U.S. list alone.

LAHINCH (NO. 41) VS. WATERVILLE (NO. 83)

P. 76

What elevates one great course over another? The devil's in the details.

THE GOLF MAGAZINE INTERVIEW: DONALD TRUMP

P. 82

President Trump? He'll never win, they say. Of course, they also said he'd never land a major. As always, America's most polarizing man comes out swinging.

COVER STORY

THE SECRET TO MORE BIRDIES

p. 52

Patrick Reed knows how to get the ball in the hole when he's on or around the greens, and his secret is simple: Be aggressive.

To shoot your lowest scores ever, you have to turn your wedges and putter into scoring weapons, and that takes a killer instinct. Reed shares his five secrets to help you learn how to make birdies like a young gun.

ON THE COVER:
REED: DARREN CARROLL;
TRUMP: ANGUS MURRAY



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MAGAZINE

October 2015 Volume 57, Issue 10

FRONT 9

Front9 Interview: Tony Finau	29
The Rules Guy	32
Peter Kostis	33
Dave Pelz	34
Mark Broadie	35
Swing Sequence	36

YOUR GAME

More Sandies with Less Effort	41
Straight Talk About Putting	42
Launch a Huge Draw	44
Hit Perfect Tee Shots in 4 Seconds	46
The Secret to Smashing Your Irons	48
Hit It as Straight as the Hawk	49
'Air' It Out with Your Driver	50

THE SHOP

Precious Metals	90
Mizuno irons that can help any player.	
Killing It Softly	92
Titleist's new ball is soft and long.	
Escape Artists	94
Pitch it tight with these new wedges.	
Go Big or Go Home	96
Two readers get fit with Srixon drivers.	
What I Play: Lydia Ko	98
The former World No. 1 relies on a bag full of Callaways.	

PRIVATE LESSONS

THE MOST PERSONALIZED GOLF INSTRUCTION ANYWHERE	
Straight Hitter	101
'Shave' Strokes with More Distance	
Low Handicapper	102
How to Put a Soft Touch on Your Chips	
Senior Player	104
Go the Distance on Uphill Approaches	
Power Hitter	106
Be Clutch from 15 Feet and Beyond	
High Handicapper	108
Ditch Your Slice Once and For All	

29

Big-hitting Tony Finau is making a splash in his first full season on Tour.

FRONT 9



YOUR GAME

41

How a cup can fix your sand game.



THE SHOP

90

Four new iron models to help any player.



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	p. 14
You're Up	p. 16
Teeing Off	p. 20
Michael Bamberger	p. 116

GOLF DIGITAL

MAGAZINE

GOLF.com



THROWBACK THURSDAY

Who doesn't love a look back at the past with Throwback Thursday? Check out "Tour Pros Before They Were Stars" on **GOLF.com** for the best photos from way back, like Bubba Watson as a junior player [above].



VAN CYNICAL MAILBAG

Sports Illustrated senior writer Gary Van Sickle offers his take on Tour topics in his weekly **GOLF.com** mailbag, like whether Tiger Woods or Phil Mickelson will make this year's Presidents Cup team.



TIPS FROM THE TOP 100

GOLF.com is your best resource for video lessons from the top instructors in the game. Visit often for tips from pros like Brian Manzella [above]. If you're fighting a slice or can't make a putt, our teachers can help.



GOLF GOLD

Want a slice of the luxury lifestyle golf can offer? **GOLF.com** Gold is the home for the finer things in golf. Where else can you see paintings [above] celebrating each of Jack Nicklaus's 18 major championships?

TWITTER

Gary Van Sickle
@GaryVanSickle



Rickie Fowler sent beer to pressroom to celebrate ace. Even golf writers may not be able to drink this much beer. Then again...

Alan Shipnuck
@AlanShipnuck



"He's an Australian and he didn't act like an Australian, let's put it that way." —Robert Allenby on his fired caddie being a tosser. LOL, really?

Eamon Lynch
@eamonlynch



Having fun watching a guy give his buddy a chipping lesson. "Keep your weight back and scoop the ball. Works every time!"

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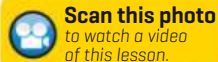


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How to use the Scan-It/ See-It digital feature in this issue



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3 Hold the camera steady. The app will click and buzz when it recognizes the image and then begin downloading the described content directly to your device. Save your favorites for help when you're out on the course!



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DIGITAL BONUS



Shhh... Listen to Patrick!

In our exclusive video, cover star Patrick Reed shows you how to make more birdies.



Top 100 Extras

Enjoy bonus photos of stunning Top 100 courses, like Pine Valley [above].



Rules School

Our resident expert solves your most confounding conundrums. Plus: a bonus quiz!



Learn From The Best

Watch video versions of Your Game tips from Top 100 Teachers like Joe Hallett [above].



You Ask, Peter Answers!

In this month's video extra, Peter Kostis helps a reader cure a case of the chip shanks.



Zach Johnson In Slo-Mo

Control the two-time major winner's swing with a swipe of your finger, only on our tablet edition.

TOP ROW: DARREN CARROLL; JOHN AND JEANNIE HENRY; ERIN PATRICE D'BRIEN; BOTTOM ROW: ANGUS MURRAY (3)



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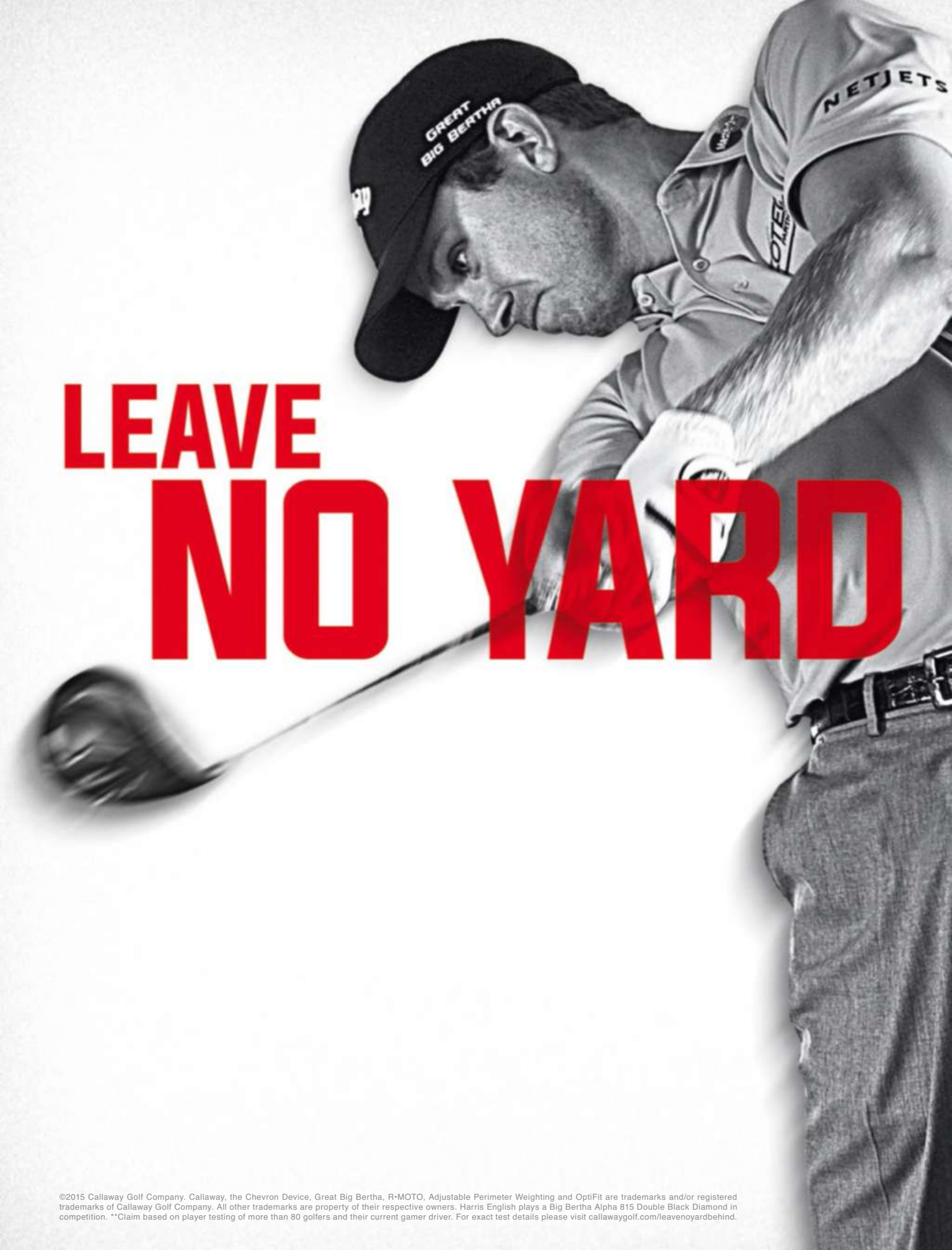
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FROM THE EDITOR



David M. Clarke, Editor

Golf's Ultimate Playgrounds

Only the best of the best make it
into our Top 100 course rankings

WE'RE PROUD TO present our brand-new rankings of the Top 100 Courses in the U.S. and the World. This year's results yield several surprises, serving as proof that golf's great playgrounds touch every corner of the globe. Our well-traveled Top 100 chairman, Joe Passov, compiled our 17th biennial ranking. He enlisted the aid of our remarkable panel of 100 voters, architecture experts who know every nook and cranny of the world's best tracks. This year's rankings feature 10 brilliant newcomers, six from the United States and four from overseas. I'm particularly pleased to see Sunningdale's New course enter the Top 100; the wonderful Harry Colt course has long been overshadowed by its charming elder sister, the Old, site of the 2015 Senior British Open. And the first-ever Top 100 entries from Thailand and the Netherlands are telltale signs that golf's global reach is stronger than ever. Who's No. 1? Who sneaks in at No. 100? Turn to p. 62 and find out.

**THIS YEAR'S LISTS
ARE AS VIBRANT
AS EVER, WITH 10
BRILLIANT NEWCOMERS
JOINING THE PARTY.**

Trump Doral, which makes our U.S. list, was where Patrick Reed broke through to win his biggest Tour victory yet (the 2014 WGC-Cadillac Championship). This month, Reed graces our cover for the first time, sharing his five short-game scoring secrets. While his overall stats don't quicken the pulse, Reed knows how to score when it counts—at 25, he has four Tour titles to his name. He'll show you how to play like a young gun on and around the greens.

David M. Clarke, Editor



**Mexico's Diamante
[Dunes], No. 38 on
our World list.**

TOP: ANGUS MURRAY; LEFT: BRIAN KORGAN

GOLF

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YOU'RE UP

Now on the tee: Your raves, rants and reactions



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Which August stories and columns drew the most letters?



A BAD READ

Pace of play is one of golf's biggest issues, and I was disappointed by the recent Your Game article on how to read greens ("Get the Read—It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3!" August 2015). If every recreational golfer took the advice of reading greens from behind the hole, low side, and behind the ball, pace of play would become even more problematic.

Al Cunningham, via e-mail

A round of golf is getting longer and longer. Encouraging players to study three vantage points on putts is a mistake. We don't need to add another two minutes to each putt.

Jack Eisenhart, via e-mail

Your green-reading tip overlooked the most important step: Before you attempt to putt this way, wave me through. By the time your foursome has three-putted (after reading each putt from three directions, that's 36 reads), I'll have birdied the next hole and chatted up the beverage-cart attendant, too.

Bob Stigger, Oak Park, Ill.

HISTORY CHanneled

Al Barkow's recent feature ("Hogan vs. Snead: The Last Duel," August 2015) was terrific. As President Truman once said, the only new thing in the world is the history you didn't know. Barkow's re-telling connects us to the game's glorious history.

Lou Riccio, New York, N.Y.

ONE ELK OF AN INTERVIEW

I just read the Steve Elkington interview ("What

Is Elk Thinking?" August 2015). Wow. He's 52 years old. Is his self-esteem so low that he needs to be like a 14-year-old kid who counts "likes" when posting a Facebook photo? He seems to be quite the attention-seeker—and arrogant with a huge, bold-type capital A. Thank you, Elk, for reminding another old guy why he should continue to stay away from social media.

Tom Intihar, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

A few years back, on a Friday afternoon, Elkington was leaving TPC Sugarloaf after finishing his round at the Greater Gwinnett Championship. As his driver was pulling away, two boys called to him from the front of the clubhouse. Steve had the driver stop, and he got out of the car, signed the boys' programs, shook their hands and spoke with them briefly. Believe me, those were two happy young men. They were impressed, but not more than I was. I can't say anything bad about Steve Elkington. To me, he is the nicest man on the planet.

Jack Seymour, via e-mail

BILLY, BE A HERO!

Billy Horschel is a very accomplished player, but I thought his behavior and attitude at the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay was disrespectful and showed a total lack of professionalism. Everyone played the same course.

W.B. Neal, Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Dufner hopes to reclaim the form that won him the 2013 PGA.



SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

f "Jason Dufner is my favorite golfer because it appears that he really loves what he does. I am also very impressed by his generosity to charities."

—Moirra Edwards

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

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Reader Marc Ostrofsky got a photo with Horschel and his Golf cover.

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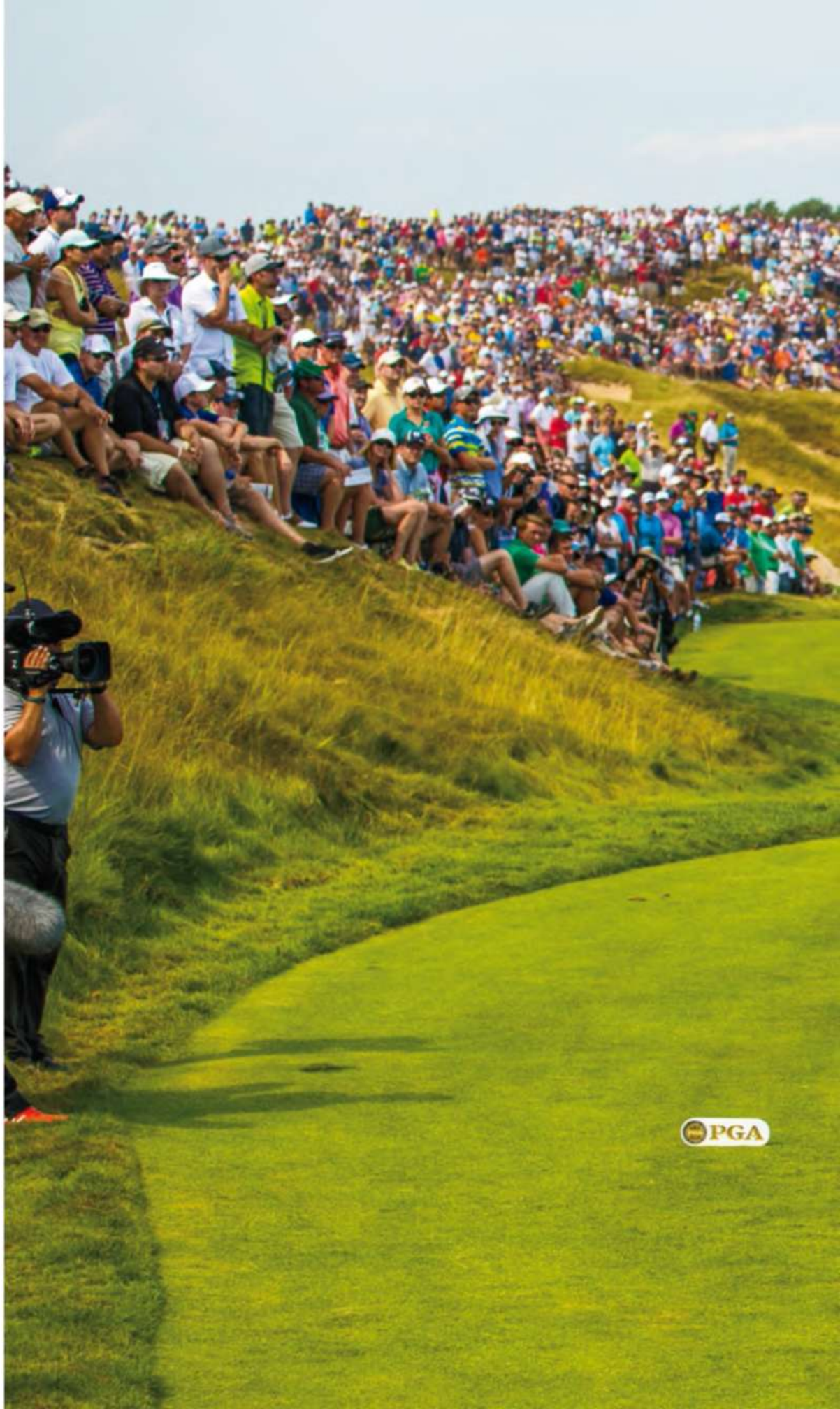
At the 2015 PGA Championship, Jason Day won his overdue first major title with a record-breaking performance—and tremendous relief.

By Cameron Morfit

■ Jason Day's emotions poured out of him on the 18th green at Whistling Straits, where his three-stroke victory over Jordan Spieth in the 97th PGA Championship culminated an improbable journey. In the previous few months, he'd taken a share of the lead into the final round of both the U.S. Open and the Open Championship. At Chambers Bay, he fought through crippling vertigo only to finish T9; at St. Andrews, his putt on the last hole came up agonizingly short, denying him a spot in a playoff. But in serene and stormy Kohler, Wis., Day finally had his day, winning his first major at 27.

That's not so old in golf years—Phil Mickelson won his ▶

PHOTO: FRED VUICH/SI





On Sunday, Day's birdie at the lakeside par-3 seventh improved his score to a stunning 19-under.



Justin Rose continued his fine play in 2015 with a fourth-place finish at the PGA.

TEEING OFF

Notoriously sandy Whistling Straits occasionally gave fits to Spieth, Dustin Johnson (T7) and Tiger Woods, who missed the cut in his third straight major.

first major at 33. But players like Spieth, 22, and Rory McIlroy, 26, had been making it look easy. It's never been easy for Day. He grew up poor in rural Australia, his mother and father barely getting by as Queensland meat workers. Father Alvin died when his son was 12, and Jason began drinking and fighting. Mom Dening sent him away to a golf academy, where Jason met his caddie, coach and father figure, Col Swatton.

Something clicked. "We did it together," Day said of his team, many of whom were in tears along with him when he tapped in for par at the 18th hole, the last stroke of a masterful final-round 67. There was Swatton; Day's son, Dash; and his pregnant wife, Ellie.

Still, Day did the heavy lifting. "Failure," he said, when asked what most prepared him for winning. "Looking at failure not as a negative but as a positive. Knowing that you can learn from

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES (2); FRED VUICH/SI; DAVID CANNON/GETTY IMAGES



Day, whose thrilling victory lifted him into an exclusive club of major winners, celebrated by sweeping his son, Dash, off his feet.

TEEING OFF

anything, bad or good." For five years, he'd been racking up top-10 and even top-five finishes in the majors. But a calm came over him at St. Andrews, and he was convinced he'd win there. He didn't, but that equanimity lingered.

Something clicked.

As they signed their scorecards, a beaten Spieth told Day, his final-round playing competitor, "There was nothing I could do." On Twitter, McIlroy later called the win "inevitable."

And there they are, the top three in the world: Spieth, whose second-place finish propelled him to No. 1; McIlroy, whose 9-under total was a solid comeback after injury benched him for six weeks; and Day, whose 20-under final score was the best ever in a major. All three players are under 30, all three are major winners, with Day the relative late bloomer. They say the best things in life are worth waiting for. Maybe it's all that waiting that makes them the best things.

PHOTO: ROBERT BECK/SI



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FRONT 9

THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THINGS
IN GOLF
THIS MONTH

Edited by
JESSICA MARKSBURY

Interview by
Jessica Marksby

Portrait by
Dan Bannister



INTERVIEW

FINAU THE PHENOM

Big-hitting **TONY FINAU**, 26, is having a huge rookie year on Tour. Nerves? Not a problem—unless a guy named Nicklaus is watching.

You're in the midst of your first full year on the PGA Tour, and you've already amassed nearly \$2 million in winnings. You also qualified for the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay and had a great showing, tying for 14th. That's quite a performance in your first major.

Yeah, for sure. To be able to qualify for that tournament was a dream come true. And not only to play in it, but to play well.

How different does a major feel, compared with the week-to-week vibe on Tour?

There are a lot more people. Everything's just bigger and better. The way they set up the golf course is a lot tougher. But I enjoyed it. I really soaked it up and was able to feed off the energy. I think it's just more support, more people that love the game at its highest level. And I really use that as positive energy, so it was pretty cool.

TONY FINAU

You've already played 27 events this season. That's quite a full schedule.

It's a lot of golf. But I'm in a different situation than a lot of guys. I'm married with three kids, so balancing is a big part of [my schedule], making sure I see my kids enough and trying to be a family man. Because for me, that's first, even before my golf career. But as a rookie, I need to play a lot. I need to know what courses I like and adjust to the atmosphere and the lifestyle of playing at the highest level.

Is there something specific in your game that enabled you to make such a big leap this year—besides driving it 309 yards, on average?

Confidence has been on my side. After four or five years of not making it out here, the confidence can waver a bit. But once I did get my break and got on the Web.com Tour last year, I was able to prove to myself that I belong on the PGA Tour. I won on the Web.com Tour and was able to compete and contend quite a bit, so that gave me a lot of confidence going into this year.

And your confidence must be growing—you've had 14 top 25s this year.

You know what's helped me? I switched to cross-handed putting a couple of years ago, and putting has become a big strength. I think everybody knows I hit it really far. And that's always a big advantage. But out here, you've got to chip it and putt it really well, so I've worked really hard to improve my wedges and putting.

You tried to get through Q-School five times before finally making it. How demoralizing was that?

It was tough to fail year after year. I never even got to the final stage until I got my card on the Web.com Tour. But I always believed

that I could be something special. I just had to prove it to myself.

You're 6'4", 200 pounds. With your athleticism, you could have excelled in a lot of other sports. How did you settle on golf?

I excelled at golf faster than I excelled at basketball. I played national basketball tournaments when I was a kid [in Salt Lake City], and I knew I was pretty good. Could I make it to Division I? Sure. Could I play in the NBA? I don't know. But I just loved playing golf. I won a Junior World title when I was 12, and to see my name alongside [past champions] Tiger and Ernie and Phil kind of confirmed for me that golf was what I was going to do.

Your Twitter profile picture shows Jack Nicklaus watching you on the range. How did that come about?

At the Memorial this year, I got a text from the tournament director on Monday evening that said, "Jack would like you to be a part of his clinic on Wednesday. Are you willing to do it?" And my heart just about popped out of my chest. I was like, whatever was happening is not happening anymore. I'm there!

You finished in the top 10 that week. Not bad, considering how nerve-racking it must have been to hit balls in front of your idol.

I was more nervous about hitting balls in front of Jack than I was about playing in the event. I was lucky I was hitting driver and that I was just on the range, so I could just close my eyes and launch it. [Laughs]

Did Jack give you any swing tips?

He liked my action. But it was pretty humbling. I didn't grow up with a lot of money, and to be standing next to the greatest player ever and hitting in front of him, and then having him say some good things—that was pretty cool. ■



Finau finished T14 in his very first major championship, at the U.S. Open at Chambers Bay.

TONY FINAU: Three Things I Know for Sure

YOU HAVE TO LISTEN

My dad, Kelepi, taught me how to play the game, and he had rules. The first one was to *listen*. A lot of us think we know it all, so we don't want to listen. I feel like listening is a huge part of life—not only listening to people, but listening to people that you believe in, people who you think are wise. That's some of the best advice I've ever had.

THINKING IS AN ART FORM


How you think, and how much you think, is so important in golf. There are countless things we can work on and think about in the swing, but when it's time to play in competition, you don't want to think too many thoughts. I try to be as visual and simple as possible: See it and hit it. If you just think about one thing when you're over the ball, it simplifies the game.

MAKE 'THE BOSS' HAPPY

My wife, Alayna, is the most organized person in the family, and if everything runs smoothly on her terms, then life is great. So that's it. If she's not having a good day, then most likely I'm not having a good day, and all of our kids aren't having a good day. But if we do what we're supposed to, and she's having a good time—I guess it just goes hand in hand. Whether I play well or not, she's the backbone of the family.

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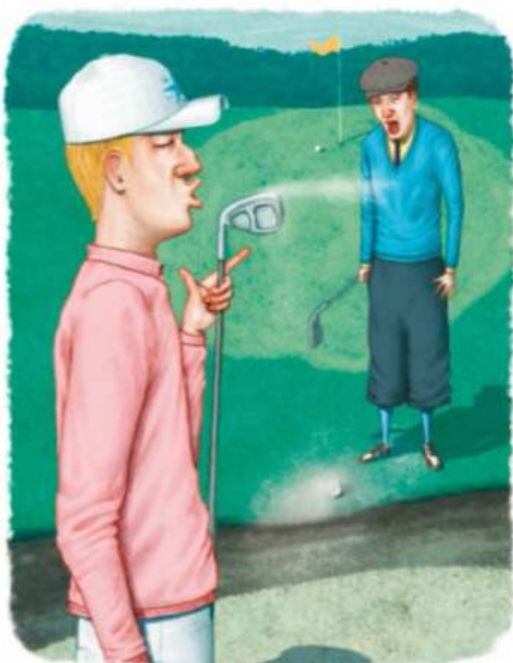
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THE RULES

ASK THE RULES GUY

GOT A RULE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND? ASK THE RULES GUY—HE WON'T THROW THE BOOK AT YOU!



A LIGHT DUSTING

Dear Rules Guy: My friend's ball was in a greenside bunker, while mine was nearby on the fringe of the green. He swung and took so much sand that a small pile ended up covering my ball. Can I remove the sand from my ball before I hit my shot?

—Frank Valentino, Simon, Ohio

A Let me first say that if your “friend” sand-splashed your ball on purpose, that’s taking gamesmanship to a new level. Luckily for you, Rule 1-4 affords what’s called “equity,” meaning that you’re entitled to the lie and line of play you had when your ball came to rest. You may remove any sand that’s on your ball or in your line to the hole. But remember: Normally, lifting and cleaning your ball is forbidden unless you’re on the green.

Got a Rules question?

Of course you do! Whatever it may be, send yours to rulesguy@golf.com and the question may be answered in an upcoming issue of *Golf Magazine*. Until then, play by the Rules!

PLAYING TAPS

Rules Man: A guy I know uses the base of his putter to tap his coin into the green after he marks his ball. Isn't this considered touching the line of the putt, and thereby a breach of the Rules? —Louis Armstrong III, Arlington, Texas

A Louis, you're my kind of guy—a real Rules stickler. In this case, though, that fellow is in the clear. There's no stipulation against tapping down a ball marker. You're actually entitled to more leeway than you might think when on the green. Rule 16-1a spells out your options: In addition to pressing down your or another player's marker, you can remove loose impediments and movable obstructions, fix ball marks, and lift and replace the ball. You can even place your putter in front of the ball when addressing it, provided you don't press it down on the surface.

FRINGE BENEFITS

Hey, Rules Guy: My competitor's ball landed on the green, but just barely. He then killed his putt all the way across the green to the fringe on the other side. Does he get the luxury of putting the flag back in, even though he already made one stroke with the pin pulled? —Bill Pike, W. Palm Beach, Fla.

A According to Rule 17-1, you can have the flagstick attended, removed or held up before playing from anywhere on the course. But that doesn't mean that once the flagstick is removed it can't be replaced. So yes, your competitor can put the flag back in the hole. (Hey, let's not make this game harder than it already is.)

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Rules Guy: I hit my tee shot on a par 3 and found what I thought was my ball (I could see the logo) plugged in a bunker. I swung and was shocked to find that I'd struck the remnant of an old ball that had sliced in half. I found my ball (same logo) in the rough. Can I play it without penalty? —Joe Cevetello, Spring Hill, Fla.

A I wish I could say it ain't so, Joe, but Decision 15/3 stipulates that you must take a penalty for hitting the wrong ball (or half a ball, in this case). Your penalty? Two shots in stroke play or loss of the hole in match play. Keep in mind that if you're trying to find or identify your ball in a bunker, Rule 12-1b lets you touch or move sand, without penalty. You can also lift your ball to identify it using the procedure in Rule 12-2.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can watch video rulings featuring Rules Guy himself! Go to golf.com/rules-guy



Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher & CBS Sports Analyst

PETER KOSTIS

POWER FAILURE

Tiger and Phil's quest for extra driving distance may (literally) hurt more than it will help

When Troy Merritt won the Quicken Loans National in August, he became the PGA Tour's 10th first-time winner in 2015. Merritt is one of 20 players under 30 to win on Tour this year. Those are impressive statistics that say a lot about the health and depth of our game's young talent. It also sends a message to veterans like Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson: Winning will only get more difficult as you age.

Let's imagine, say, a 22-year-old Major League Baseball phenom with a 98 mph fastball. He can have a few great seasons with that one weapon alone, but raw power doesn't last forever. Within a few years, the pitcher's fastball will max out at 95 mph, then 92. To have a great career that spans many years, the flamethrower will have to develop a broader repertoire. He'll need a changeup, a curveball and a slider. Otherwise, he'll disappear from the big leagues.

So it is with Tour players. When Tiger burst onto the professional scene in 1997, he revolutionized the sport with his power. But nearly two decades later, rather than focusing on the finer points of, say, his short game—pitching, chipping and putting—he's forced to try and regain his 98 mph heater, because the tournaments he really wants to win demand distance. Given Tiger's injury history, straining for more yards is the last thing he should worry about! When older players like Woods and Mickelson obsess over clinging to their length off the tee, they become more susceptible to injuries to the hips, shoulders, lower back and ribs, as well as the hands and wrists.

The dearth of older winners on Tour should also be a wake-up call for the Tour's leadership, who oversee the way tournament courses are set up. Many Tour venues are played at more than



Tiger's desire to keep up with today's young guns puts him at higher risk of injury.

7,400 yards. As long as those setups continue to demand—and reward—extreme power and length, players will do whatever it takes (including swinging hard and risking injury) to remain competitive. Instead, Tiger should steal a page from the playbooks of Jim Furyk and Zach Johnson—two well-rounded players who keep performing at a high level not with muscle, but with precision wedge play and superb putting. Of course, that's not really the style of golf Tiger grew up playing.

As for you, here's how to ensure that you'll keep swinging with little risk of injury: Don't overemphasize any one part of the swing. For example, don't try to "fire your hips through impact." That's nonsense—the swing is much more than one part of your body, and no one part should feel strained. This principle will help you hone an injury-free swing that lasts a lifetime. ■

ASK PETER KOSTIS

Peter, I don't have the chip yips—I have the chip shanks! What can I do to cure them?

—Jack Butler, Wichita, Kan.

People with chipping woes tend to "freeze" their lower bodies, which forces them to use excessive hand and arm action—and that's not good. To chip with a free-flowing feeling, practice with your ball resting an inch or two from a 2 x 4 plank of wood. Let your knees move as you swing. Your goal? To hit the ball, not the board—90 percent of all shanks come from a swing path that takes the clubhead into the side of the board at impact. So free up your lower body to help you connect with the ball and miss the board. If you can learn to do that, your chipping shanks will be a thing of the past.

Do you have a question for Peter? Tweet him @peterjkostis or visit his website at peterkostis.com.

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KOSTIS: ANGUS MURRAY; WOODS: ROBERT BECK/ISI



Golf Magazine's technical & short-game consultant

DAVE PELZ

GRASSROOTS EFFORT

Save our sod! How to carve out a solid wedge practice session without carving up the range.

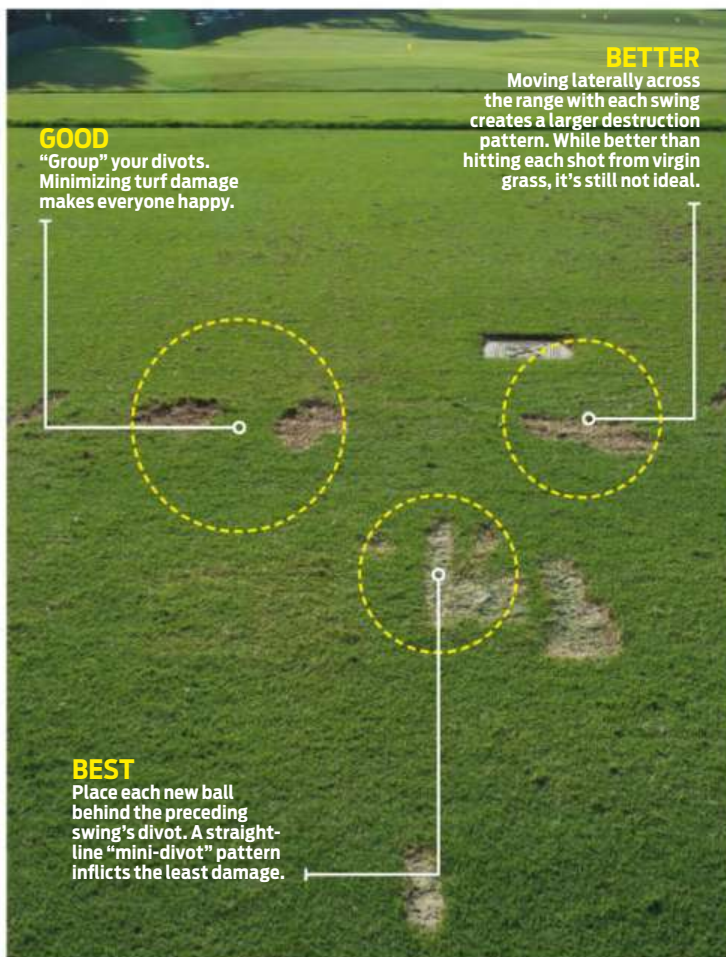
Dedicating a significant amount of practice time to your wedge game is critical. If you don't work on dialing in your wedge distances on the range, you won't be able to flight shots accurately on the course. Every golfer should heed this advice, but if too many players follow my direction, we might not have any grass left to practice on at all!

I'm picking on wedge swings because they wreak havoc on turf—each one creates a divot about two inches wide by five inches long and removes some 10 square inches of grass from the surface. If you hit 30 wedges each from an area of grass, you're effectively removing a quarter of a square yard of sod. Multiply this by the thousands of golfers hitting wedge shots every day across America, and you can picture the scope of the problem.

I don't recommend hitting fewer wedges. Quite the opposite: Hit wedges until the cows come home. I merely ask that you do it in a way that creates a minimal "destruction" pattern.

Check out this photo. I snapped it at a recent PGA Tour event. Each divot pattern was created by a pro in just 10 wedge swings. They're all compact—pros know that "grouping" swings in the same area inflicts the least amount of range damage. But even among these divot patterns, some are easier to "heal" than others.

The least-destructive pattern is the sand-filled divot, just right of center in the photo. Basically, it's a full divot aimed at the target followed by a straight row of "mini-divots," which are much smaller than the one dug out by the first swing. You create them by placing each ball (after the first shot) on the back edge of the previous divot, so that as the club bottoms out



after impact, you remove only one additional inch of turf with each shot. Superintendents rejoice!

The other pros varied in their divot patterns, but each one hit succeeding shots very close to the previous divot. Again, the key is to minimize the removal of grass. Also, notice that none of the pros hit a shot other than their first from a virgin area of turf. Moving to a new, pristine patch of grass on each swing (the habit of most weekend players) maximizes

the damage you inflict on the range.

So be nice to your practice area, your superintendent, your fellow golfers and yourself. Practice your wedges often but without chewing up the range. When you practice, I suggest hitting each wedge in your bag at least 8 to 10 times and to targets of varying distance, taking mini-divots to minimize your footprint. The only "damage" you want to do is on the course, when you're knocking down pins. ■

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MARK BROADIE: EVERY SHOT COUNTS



SURPRISE PARTY

Missed cut, missed cut, win! What gives? A glimpse at golf's most unexpected champs.

After missing five cuts in a row, Troy Merritt won the Quicken Loans National in August. That was a surprising outcome for sure, but not all that unusual. As a golf fan, I marvel at the depth of today's fields and how any player good enough to be on Tour is good enough to win any given week. I'm a professor at Columbia Business School, and as an academic with an interest in golf analytics, I got to wondering: How do you rank winners based on how surprising their victories were?

course. I was more curious about the victories that no one had predicted.

The five most surprising Tour winners since 1983 are Andre Stolz, Derek Ernst, Dicky Pride, Greg Twiggs and Gabriel Hjertstedt. A snapshot of the top two: In 2004, Stolz missed 11 cuts in 20 events, and his best finishes of the season, excluding his win at the Michelin Championship, were T34 and T54. For his



Hats off to Troy Merritt, whose recent victory caught the Tour off-guard.

You may think that anyone in the field can win a given Tour event, but victories rarely go to "below average" players.

Quantifying the degree of surprise of a given victory is tricky. One way to approach it would be to simply count the number of missed cuts leading up to a win, but this ignores players who reach the weekend only to finish at the bottom of the pack. I wanted a better, yet still simple, way to measure the surprise factor. So I looked at each winner's total Strokes Gained per round for the season (which I adjusted for the strength of the field in each event), and then ranked Tour winners from the most to the least surprising.

By this metric, the least surprising winners since 1983 are Tiger Woods, Jose Maria Olazabal, Greg Norman, Vijay Singh and Seve Ballesteros. The least surprising winners in the 2015 season? Jordan Spieth, Rory McIlroy, Jason Day, Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson. Those are all big names, of

part, Ernst missed 14 cuts in 21 events in 2013 and never cracked the top 40, apart from his Wells Fargo Championship victory.

What's more, these five players combined for a grand total of just one *other* Tour victory, courtesy of Hjertstedt. The other four members of this "surprise" party? Well, they're all one-hit wonders.

Since 1983, just 6 percent of Tour winners (that's 90 out of 1,501) had a negative Strokes Gained average per round during the season of their win. You may think that

any player can win in any given week, but trophies rarely go to the ranks of the "below average" (that is, Tour players with a negative Strokes Gained per round average for the season).

This year's most surprising winners through late summer (see below) are Padraig Harrington, Nick Taylor and Matt Every. Given Harrington's six PGA Tour wins, including three major titles, his 2015 Honda Classic victory might not surprise you. But then we look at his finishes leading up to that triumph: T75, cut, T73, cut, cut, cut, cut, T56.

As for Merritt, his win is the sixth most unexpected of 2015. Although five missed cuts preceded his victory, that is mitigated somewhat by a pair of top-10 finishes.

And if he wins again—well, I wouldn't be at all surprised. ■

SURPRISE! THE MOST UNEXPECTED WINNERS OF 2015

RANK	WINNER	TOURNAMENT	STROKES GAINED PER ROUND IN 2015
1	Padraig Harrington	The Honda Classic	-0.47
2	Nick Taylor	Sanderson Farms Championship	-0.40
3	Matt Every	Arnold Palmer Invitational	-0.34

ASK MARK!

Got a stats question for Mark Broadie, best-selling author of *Every Shot Counts*? Ask him via Twitter: @MarkBroadie

BROADIE: COURTESY/CIAMAC/DALE/LEH; MERRITT: CARLOS M. SANCHEZ/ISI

SWING SEQUENCE

WATCH & LEARN

Laser-straight **Zach Johnson** missed just nine fairways on his way to victory in the British Open. Steal his Hoganesque swing secret below.

Zach's cap tilts to the right. This eye position makes it easier to rotate on plane.



Clubhead "sweeps" over an extension of the target line. On plane at the start.



His shaft is now parallel to the target line—copy this!



His knees return to their address position when his hands reach waist height.



Scan this photo to watch Zach's swing in pure slow motion. See p. 8.



Shaft points at his chest here...



...here...



GOLF.COM

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Analysis by Top 100 Teacher
MIKE BENDER, Mike Bender
Golf Academy, Lake Mary, Fla.



Zach Johnson isn't the biggest or strongest guy on Tour. And he sure as heck doesn't fit the profile of the modern bomber. But who cares? The Iowa native has racked up an impressive résumé over the last decade. Since the 2004 season, Johnson, 39, has notched 12 Tour wins, including the 2007 Masters and the 2015 Open Championship at St. Andrews. Multiple titles have come on tough tracks like Colonial C.C. and TPC San Antonio, home of the Texas Open. Since he doesn't hit the ball a mile like so many other top players, Zach has to swing efficiently in order

STATISTICS

THE LINE ON ZACH

**Through the 2015 WGC-Bridgestone*

12
Tour
Victories

15th
Strokes Gained:
Tee to Green [1.055]

3rd
Driving
Accuracy [72.2%]

12th
World Golf
Ranking



to maximize his clubhead speed and the quality of his ballstriking. He accomplishes these tasks in two ways. First, he moves the club almost perfectly on plane throughout his motion. Also, he properly coordinates the movement of his arms and body, especially through impact. Look at frames 11 to 14 and notice how the shaft stays in a straight line with his right forearm. This shows that his shoulders, arms and shaft are moving at the same rate of speed—the same type of motion Ben Hogan used. Give Zach's attack a try. His swing secrets will help you find a boatload of fairways.

Sequence photography by ANGUS MURRAY
Portrait by BOB MARTIN/SI



Control Zach Johnson's swing with the swipe of a finger on the iPad and tablet editions of *Golf Magazine*. Visit golf.com/allaccess.

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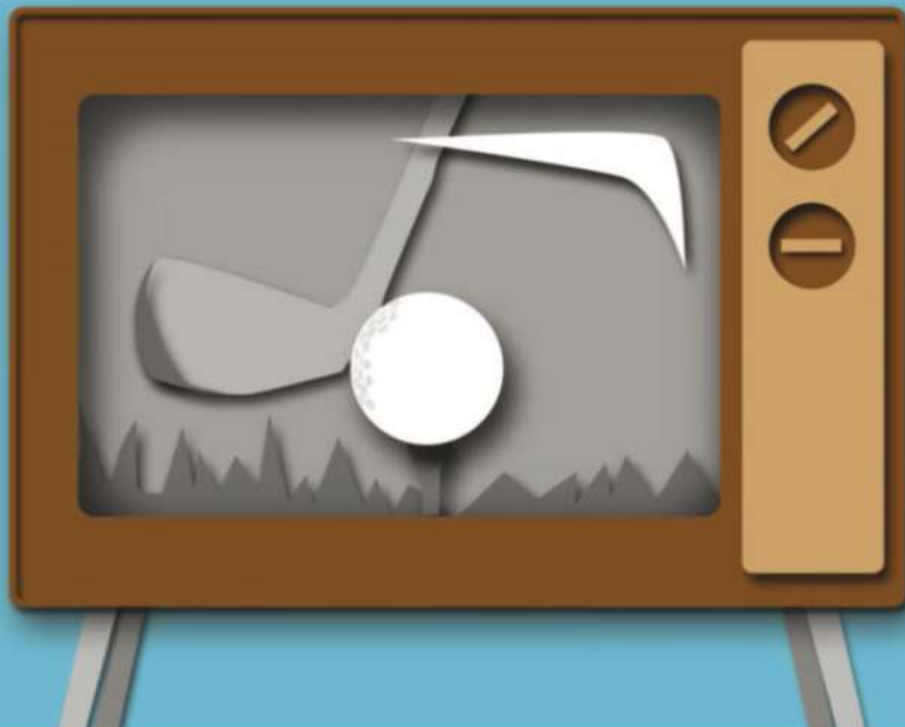
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ESCAPE THE SAND



JOE HALLETT

Vanderbilt
Legends Club,
Franklin, Tenn.
[Top 100 since 2011]



More Sandies with Less Effort

My cup drill helps you take a perfect divot every time

Don't you hate it when people say, "Bunker shots are easy—all you have to do is hit the sand"? The truth is, sand shots *aren't* easy for a majority of recreational players. But I'm about to change that with a simple drill that I learned from PGA master professional Dave Normand. It helps you make contact with the sand in the

right place and blast just enough of it to carry the ball onto the green. You'll need a large plastic cup, a ball, and a quiet area in the practice bunker (this drill looks a little strange, so you'll want some privacy).

Step 1: Drop the ball on a flat section of the bunker, and place the cup directly over the ball. The cup does two things: First, it hides your view of the ball, which helps you concentrate on your real target: the sand. Also, the circumference of the cup's

rim is about the size of a proper sand divot, so if you carve out the sand under the cup, you'll know you're taking the correct amount.

Step 2: Address the cup as you would the ball and focus on swinging your wedge just under its mouth. You want to enter the sand on the back side of the rim and exit on the target side or just slightly beyond. Do it right and the cup (and the ball) will fly onto the green. More sandies with less effort—I'll drink to that!



For perfect sand divots, place a plastic cup directly over the ball...

...and then blast the cup (and the ball) out of the bunker.



Scan this photo to watch a video of this lesson. See p. 8.



WATCH THIS ON YOUR IPAD OR TABLET.
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CLAUDE HARMON III
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**NEW
TOP 100
TEACHER!**

Straight Talk About Putting

Groove an ascending strike to eliminate sidespin and roll 'em dead on line

I see a lot of full-swing mistakes filter down to the short game and putting. The most common one? The slice. That's right—you can slice putts, too. Moving the putter across the ball from outside to in [just as

you do when you slice your driver or an iron] creates significant sidespin, making the ball shoot out to the right. And as is the case with the full swing, a sliced putt gets worse the farther to the left you aim. But instead of

simply trying to compensate, the smart play is to fix your stroke path by swinging the putterhead straight down the target line and then releasing it properly, rather than holding it open through impact. Here's how it's done.

Swing up through impact to avoid hitting the coins...



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 8.

The Two-Quarter Drill

To quickly and easily improve your putting path, try my two-quarter drill. Stack two quarters directly behind the ball at address [inset photo, left]. Your goal is to make your stroke and strike the ball without disrupting the stack of coins.

To accomplish this, you have to swing slightly up into the ball through impact, which also prevents you from swinging down and across, eliminating the "cut" action in your stroke. Concentrate not only on swinging up through impact but also finishing your stroke with the putterhead a bit higher than normal and farther down the target line. Do it right and you'll feel the putterhead release [or close slightly] through impact, and the ball will start on line rather than shoot out to the right.

For extra practice, try the drill without a ball—just swing the putter over the two quarters without hitting them. Do it in your living room or while watching TV. A little time—and 50 cents—is a small price to pay for more one-putts.

...and finish with the club higher off the ground and farther down the line. Good-bye, cut putt!





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Hobe Sound, Fla.
(Top 100 since 1996)

Make This Swing to Launch Huge Draws

My tee-box trick instantly grooves a perfect driver strike

Your driver has less loft than any club in your bag [aside from your putter]. Low loft means low backspin, and this paves the way for sidespin to have a greater effect on your ball flight. This also places a premium on catching the ball on the sweet spot and delivering the club to impact on a path that's upward and slightly in to out. If you swing down or out to

in [pay attention, slicers and short hitters], you'll produce distance-sapping spin and have trouble controlling shot shape. To improve your driving, you simply must groove the right attack angle.

HIT THE SLOPES

To ensure an ascending driver swing that moves up and in to out, take your warm-up rips on the back side of the tee box. Since most boxes are elevated for drainage purposes, you'll find a nice upslope pointing in the direction of the fairway [photo, right]. Set

up with your right shoulder slightly lower than your left and with a bit more weight on your back foot. When you swing, keep your right shoulder low and let the sole of your driver barely graze the top of the slope [photo, below]. After a few practice swings up the slope, simply walk to the markers, tee up your ball and hit away with the same ascending-path feel. Not only will you correctly hit up on the ball; you'll better release the club through impact. You'll see more yards with a touch of draw—and you didn't have to hit a single practice ball!



Find an upslope on the backside of the tee box...



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 8.

ANGUS MURRAY [3]



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FRED GRIFFIN
Grand Cypress
Golf Academy,
Orlando, Fla.
[Top 100 since 1996]



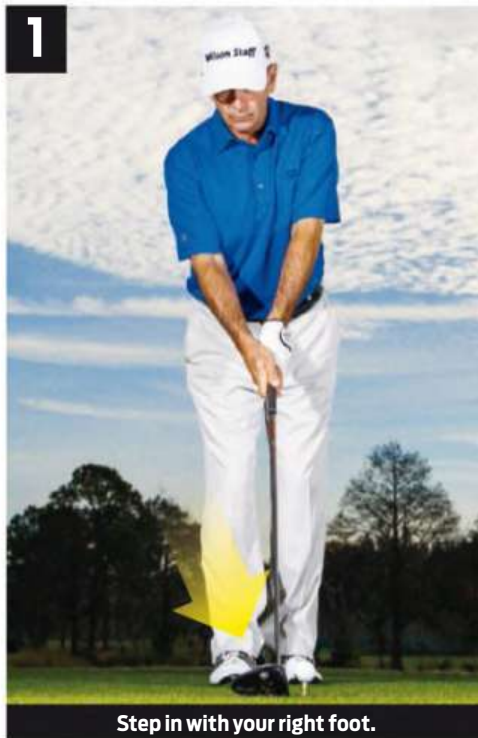
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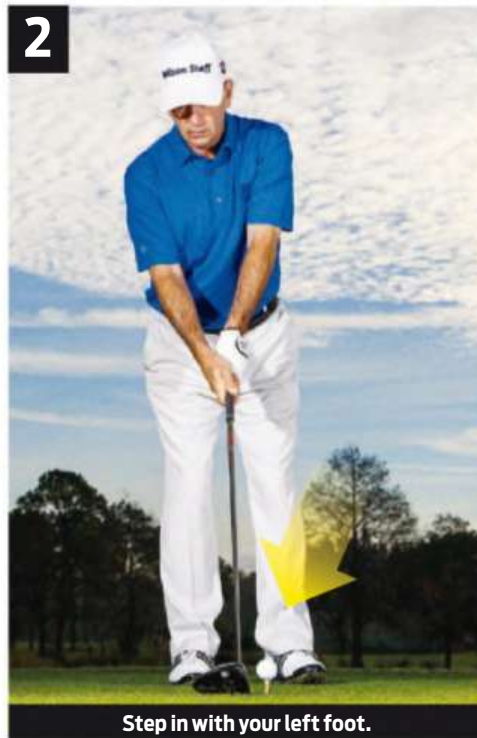
When you're on the range, it's okay to think about your swing in segments—takeaway, turn, weight shift, and so on. After all, this is when you work on the parts of your motion in order to hone a better overall move. But doing this on the course destroys your rhythm. Good players take about four seconds to go from setup to finish. You're probably still settling into your stance at the four-second mark. For a seamless swing with smooth tempo, make a four-second move: Set up and load (two seconds), then simply swing (two more seconds.) You can even count the seconds in your head if it helps. Here's how to do it.

- 1:** Start with your feet together. Step in with your right foot to set your distance from the ball.
- 2:** Step in with your left foot and position the ball off your left heel.
- 3:** Widen your stance by pulling your right foot away from your left. As soon as your right foot plants, use this directional momentum to begin your swing.
- 4:** Complete your swing.

This thought-free (and stress-free) approach should be a major boon to your ballstriking.



Step in with your right foot.



Step in with your left foot.



Widen your right foot, then start your swing.



Pulverize the ball!



Scan this photo
to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 8.

ANGUS MURRAY (5)



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**TODD SONES**

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White Deer Run G.C.,
Vernon Hills, Ill.
[Top 100 since 1996]



Point Your Chest at the Ball

It's the secret to smashing your irons—and you get it with a balanced address

Because the ball is sitting on the ground when you're hitting an approach shot to the green (or any shot other than one from the tee box), it's critical that your chest face the ground as you strike the ball. Otherwise, you'll catch the shot thin and lose the leverage you need to compress the ball against the clubface like the pros do.

To achieve this position at impact, make sure you set it at address. Try this: Settle into your address position but with your club held horizontally in front of you. Now imagine that the club is a barbell with significant weight on both ends. The only way to maintain your stance holding this heavy barbell is to bend forward from your hip joints, flex your knees slightly, and let your arms hang straight down. This is a balanced, athletic position. If you push the barbell too far away from your body, you'll fall forward, and if you hold it too close, you'll slump down with your weight sinking back into your heels. The trick? Find the spot where your weight is balanced in the middle of your feet so you feel as though you could lift the barbell into the air easily. Once you find that spot, you'll know what your setup and impact positions should feel like.

To further ingrain the feel, assume your athletic, balanced address position and hit shots with a three-quarter swing. Concentrate on staying down through impact so that your chest stays over the ball, just as it would if you were holding the barbell in front of you.

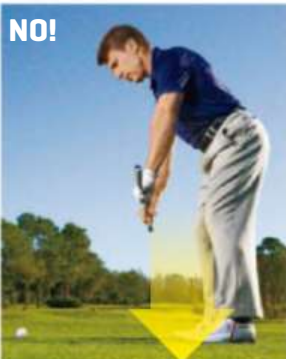
Irons aren't as difficult to hit as you think. With a little practice, you'll be hitting the sweet spot every time.



For pure strikes, hit the ball with your chest facing the ground. It happens almost automatically with a balanced setup.



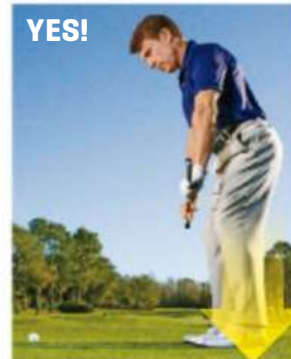
Scan this photo to watch a video of this lesson. See p. 8.



NO!
Arms too far from body, weight "falling" over toes.



NO!
Arms too close to body, weight "slumping" onto heels.



YES!
Arms hanging straight down, weight over balls of feet.

ANGUS MURRAY (5)



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E.A. TISCHLER

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Olympia Fields, Ill.
(Top 100 since 2015)NEW
TOP 100
TEACHER!

Hit It as Straight as the Hawk

Use Ben Hogan's "corridor" for laser-accurate shots

As legend has it, Ben Hogan honed a hook-proof swing that eliminated the left side of any hole, then went on to win nine majors. But you may not know that early in his career, the Hawk worked to eliminate the *right* side of the course. So by the time he straightened out that hook, he had effectively created a shot "corridor" down the middle of the fairway.

I suggest you follow Hogan's example and create your own corridor—it's the secret to hitting more fairways and greens. My students do what I call "corridor training" in their practice sessions. It goes like this:

Step 1: Place an alignment stick in front of the ball so it's pointed straight down your target line. Position two other alignment sticks behind the ball aimed slightly left and right of your target (photo below). The outside sticks frame your shot corridor.

Step 2: Aim straight on your first swing, but try to start the ball between the middle stick and the one to its right and have the shot finish within the corridor. It should feel as though you're "pushing" the ball at impact. If the ball lands outside the corridor, it should cross the right wall, not the left.

Step 3: Using the same setup, try to start the next shot on the left side of your corridor and have it finish within your target zone. Hit a third ball with the goal of starting it straight down the center stick.

Give yourself a couple of range sessions to get the hang of it. Once you have it nailed (move the end sticks in over time), take it to Hogan's level and hit draws that start on the right side of the corridor and fades that start on the left side. By owning what's happening at the beginning of your ball flight and creating a zone with which you can judge good shots from bad, you'll be more accurate with every club in your bag. Corridor training takes a little effort, but it works. Look at Hogan for proof.



Scan this photo

to watch a video of
this lesson. See p. 8.

Alignment sticks let you create a "corridor" over your target area so you can learn to start shots on either side. Control the start of your ball flight to control how close you hit it to your target.

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VISIT GOLF.COM/ALLACCESS.



with
DR. T.J. TOMASI
Keiser University
Port St. Lucie, Fla.
[Top 100 since 1999]



'Air' It Out with Your Driver

Change your breathing pattern to steady your heart rate—and smash bigger tee shots!

Did you know that for the most part, you use just one nostril at a time when you breathe? Yep, only your left or right nostril channels air into your body at any given time; they work in tandem for merely two minutes per every two hours of breathing. This alternating airflow is important, because each nostril feeds the opposite side of your brain. As such, your normal breathing pattern affects your state of mind and your cellular metabolism, depending on which nostril is at work. This unique cycle balances your body, creating a general homeostasis that lets you function optimally at work, play and rest.

But what if you disrupt the cycle? Over the last few decades, studies have shown that adjusting your nasal breathing pattern by blocking the dominant nostril and redirecting air flow to the opposite side of the brain eliminates stress. Specifically, it can reduce standing heart rates and tension levels in the forearms and wrists, allowing athletes in all sports that involve hitting (golf, hockey, baseball) to move faster and more efficiently.

Crazy stuff, right? We decided to put the theory to the test. With the help of

research partner John Callahan and the Keiser University Golf Lab, we taught 15 golfers (ages 19 to 35) an Alternate Nasal Breathing technique (ANB—see sidebar, right) that forces air through each nostril, one at a time. Then we compared swings made with a 6-iron to pre-test swings charted before administering the technique.

Did the breathing exercise help? Yes, in every way imaginable:

Heart rate: 10.9% slower
Ball speed: 5.4% faster
Distance: 5.8 yards longer
Smash factor: An increase from 1.32 to 1.36

A slower heart rate, less tension, faster swings—that's a trifecta to die for for most weekend players. In addition, the decrease in muscular tension appeared to have increased the subjects' ability to hit the ball on the sweet spot, as evidenced by the significant elevation in smash factor, an indicator of

powerful, centered contact. And this after only 10 minutes of ANB training! (If you're wondering, the average smash factor on Tour with a 6-iron is 1.37.)

Controlling breathing to boost performance is something that martial arts experts and yogis have known about for more than 3,000 years. Our study proves it can work for golf, too. My advice? When you're standing behind the ball visualizing your shot, perform one cycle of ANB, then walk to your ball and hit it. The longer you delay between ANB and pulling the trigger on your swing, the more likely tension will creep back into your muscles. So breathe deep. Those extra-long drives are the sweet smell of success.

ANB TECHNIQUE

1. Press your right index finger against your right nostril.
2. Breathe in deeply, so that your belly swells.
3. Allow your chest to inflate next. Hold the breath for one count and slowly exhale over four counts.
4. Switch fingers and nostrils and repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. Continue alternating for five minutes. On the course, use one cycle during your pre-shot routine (left nostril breath, right nostril breath).

A slower heart rate fuels faster swings. Science proves that you can tone down your ticker by breathing through one nostril at a time before you swing.



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THE TEACHERS FROM THIS ISSUE CAN NOW BE FOUND ON GOLF.COM/YOUR GAME



E.A. TISCHLER

(@EATischler)

Your "corridor training" guru [p. 49] can also power up your release. Check the site for his secret to pure irons.

ALSO FROM TISCHLER

- How to "hinge and return" for perfect pitch shots into the green.



CLAUDE HARMON III

(@CH3golf)

The self-proclaimed "Son of a Butch" has you starting putts on line [p. 42]. Now let him juice your driver swing.

ALSO FROM HARMON

- How to "lean" into your irons for pure, accurate approach shots.



MIKE ADAMS

(@MikeAdamsGolf)

The recent World Golf Teachers Hall of Fame inductee has the secret to get you hitting the sweet spot with every club.

ALSO FROM ADAMS

- How to "type" your swing to find your best setup, grip and swing plane.

🖱️ YOUR GO-TO LESSON TEE
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SHHHHHHHH!!

I'VE GOT THE SECRET TO MORE BIRDIES

And my secret is simple: Be aggressive on and around the greens. To shoot your lowest numbers ever, you have to turn your wedges and putter into scoring weapons, and that takes a killer instinct. Here's how to make birdies like a young gun.

BY FOUR-TIME
PGA TOUR WINNER
PATRICK REED

with Michael Chwasky
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
DARREN CARROLL

IF YOU LOOK AT MY STATS this year, you'll see that I'm not as straight off the tee as some of the guys at the top of the money list (I'm 15th). Heck, you probably find more fairways than I do. I also don't hit a whole lot of greens in regulation. Still, after four years on Tour, I've already won four times—including a World Golf Championship with a major-caliber field—and played in a Ryder Cup. My secret? Well, owning a 117 mph swing doesn't hurt, but it's not required. My real talent is finding a way to get the ball in the hole when I'm on or around the greens. If I've got wedge or putter in my hand, I'm dangerous.

You already know that feel and imagination are important from 100 yards and in, but the real path to short-game mastery is aggressiveness. And no, the word "aggressive" is not code for shooting at tucked pins or flying it over a huge lake. I'm talking about going for broke with your wedges and putter, clubs that strike fear into most weekend players. I'm going to teach you a whole new way to play bunker blasts, wedge shots and putts. These aren't situations to dread. They're opportunities to score! Try my five secrets on the following pages. You're about to discover that these small swings can reap big rewards.

SECRET

1

ADOPT A “MAKE EVERYTHING” ATTITUDE

To heck with just getting it close. Your new scoring mantra? Roll 'em in!

I'm not one of those guys who's content just to roll putts close, even from long range. I want to jar *everything*. Trying to make each and every putt I look at may be my biggest scoring key. The green is the best place to make up strokes, so an aggressive attitude is a must if you want to convert more than your fair share of putts.

The trick is to be aggressive without crossing the line into recklessness—that is, a complete loss of speed and distance control. Rolling it five or six feet past the hole on every attempt will hurt you more than help you. When I say “be aggressive,” I mean pick your line and speed, then eliminate all thoughts other than seeing your ball drop into the hole.

As my coach, Top 100 teacher Kevin Kirk, says, if your mind is worried about three-putting, you'll focus on what you don't want to happen rather than what you do want. There's a better, more effective way to putt.



GO LONG TO STOP THREE-PUTTING

Your first step to instill an aggressive “make everything” mindset? Get comfortable with longer putts. Those 30- to 40-footers are the ones you're probably happy just to cozy up to three feet. To me, that's still a miss! Here's the problem with lagging to a three-foot circle: If you're just a little off, you could easily end up six or seven feet from the hole. On the practice green, roll some 30- and 40-footers with the intention of dying the ball into the hole every time. This way, if you miss, you'll likely leave yourself a makeable two- to three-footer. Three-jacks are a common, costly mistake, so getting good at this drill will improve your scores, and fast.

Also, sprinkle in a few 10- and 15-footers to your long-putt practice. These are key birdie and par distances that should also be considered “must makes.” Work on them using the same aggressiveness as in your lag practice. Remember your mantra on the greens: Try to hole everything.

PAT STAT

Average Strokes
per Hole

1.55 (1st)

SECRET
2ROLL PUTTS WITH A **FIRM LEFT HAND**

Control the putterface from start to finish for Tour-pro touch on the greens

On Tour, two techniques for putting are popular: (1) using the right hand to power the forward-stroke, and (2) rocking the shoulders to move the putterhead back and through. In my opinion, these moves can cause you to jerk the putterhead off line. I prefer to focus only on swinging my left hand. My left hand is weaker than my right and less powerful than my shoulders, so it's easier to control. Although I'm right-handed, I play tennis and Ping-Pong with my left hand, and I'm a southpaw putter, too. When I'm rolling it well, I feel like I'm striking the ball using a backhanded stroke. To copy my motion, simply think about moving the back of your left hand straight down the target line without flexing your wrists, and you'll have the proper feel.



PAT STAT

First Putt
Proximity to Hole**2' 1"** (12th)**MY BACKHAND PRACTICE DRILL**

Place your left hand on the grip as normal, then wrap your right thumb and forefinger around your left wrist (inset, below). Press the knuckles of your right hand against the outside of your left thumb to nicely lock in your hold. This special grip removes any influence from your right hand, simplifying everything. The idea is to feel like your left hand is doing all of the work. As you practice with this grip, notice how easy it is to keep the putterface square and to stop the putterhead from passing your hands too early. Make about a dozen strokes, then switch to your normal grip. If you can mimic the same feel, you're money.



A left-hand-dominant stroke keeps the face square to the target for pure, straight rolls.





BUILD YOUR OWN SHORT-SHOT ARSENAL

Rattle the pin from inside 60 yards! All you need is a lob wedge and three easy moves.

After your putter, your wedges are your most important tools for scoring, both around the green and from the fairway and rough in the 100-yards-and-in range. Although many teachers—including mine—advise the use of multiple wedges around the greens, I grew up watching Phil Mickelson work his short-game magic, and I've learned to play just about every short-game shot you can imagine with my 61-degree lob wedge. Sure, it takes some practice, but mastering one wedge for all of these shots simplifies things and pays dividends, whether you shoot in the 60s or the 90s. All you have to do is alter a few basic elements in your setup and swing (see photos, right). With a practice session or two, you'll be pitching it close from everywhere.

PAT STAT

Scrambling

62.2%

(36th)

ONE CLUB, THREE SCORE-SAVING SHOTS

For greenside pitch shots with your lob or sand wedge, simply change the combination of backswing length, clubface angle and release. This lets you hit high shots, medium-trajectory shots and low runners with ease. Here's how to do it.

THE LOB

To hit it high and soft, make a three-quarter backswing, stopping your motion when the clubshaft sits straight up and down (photo, near right). Let the clubface rotate slightly open as you swing to the top—this will provide extra loft at impact. Let the clubhead fully “release” and pass your hands through the hitting zone. This means turning your right hand on top of your left (photo, far right). This is the rare shot that demands that you release the club early—the earlier, the better. Your primary goal when hitting a lob? Get the club ahead of your hands at impact. You'll be lobbing it tight in no time.



Club perpendicular to the ground.

Clubhead ahead of the hands through impact.

THE STANDARD

For a medium-trajectory, medium-spin shot, stop your backswing at waist height, or when the clubshaft is parallel to the ground. Unlike the lob shot, don't let the clubface open relative to your path. (If you stop your swing at the top and look to the right, the toe of the club should point straight up in the air.) As you swing down, make a “slow” release so that the clubhead and your hands reach the ball at the same time (middle photo, right). Your right hand shouldn't roll over your left until the ball is well on its way to the flag.



Club parallel to the ground.

Shaft straight up and down at impact.

THE LOW RUNNER

If the situation allows you to hit a low, running shot across the green (instead of flying it to your target), then roll with it, baby! It gives you more control. Set up with a square clubface and take the club back until it creates a 45-degree angle with the ground (photo, near right). Coming down, lead the club with your hands so that the shaft leans slightly toward the target when you strike the ball. This “pinches” the ball against the ground for more control. Through impact, let your hands release so the clubface closes fully. The ball will pop up and hit the ground quickly, running the rest of the way to the hole. Time for an easy tap-in.



Club at 45-degree angle to ground.

Hands slightly ahead of the clubhead.

SECRET
4

FLIGHT YOUR WEDGES

Shorten your swing-back and through-for pin-seeking shots



*Right hand
"rolls"
over left.*



*Slight
right-hand
roll in
release.*



*Minimal
right-
hand roll.*

One of the biggest mistakes you can make on full wedge shots is hitting the ball too high. That's easy to do if you "scoop" the ball through impact or just swing too hard. For accurate wedge shots, both from the fairway and the rough, I use a shorter backswing and an abbreviated finish. You should too. This combination—known as "flighting" the ball—creates a slightly delofted impact position with forward shaft lean and helps you compress the ball against the clubface. It also helps you hit down on the ball more with a slightly steeper angle of attack, a big help when the ball is sitting in the rough.

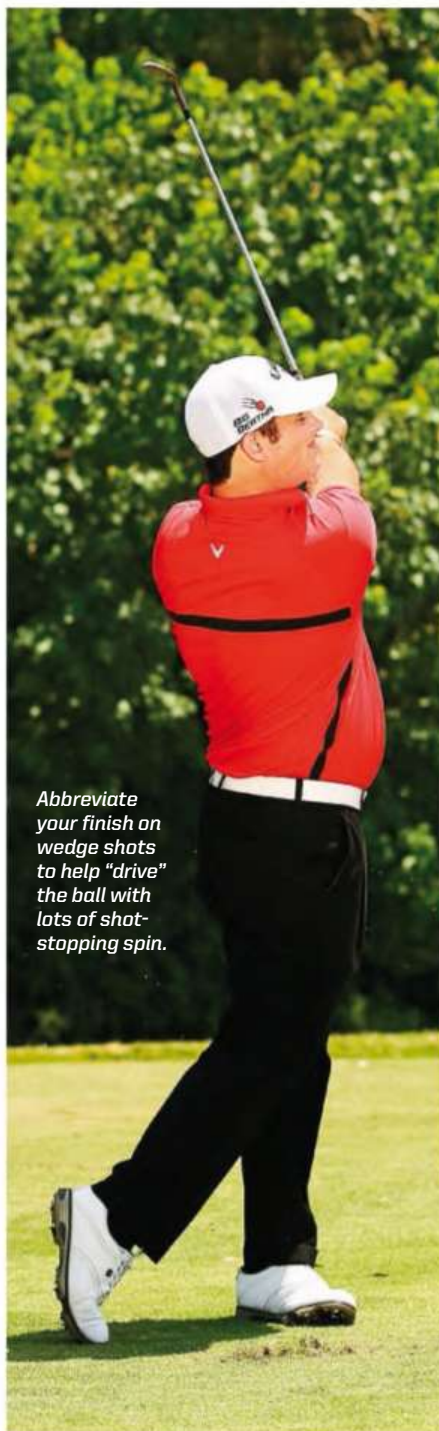
With flighted wedges, keep your weight centered at impact (don't get out in front or "hang back" on your right side too much) and turn your hips through impact, just as you would on a normal shot. And resist the impulse to swing at 100 percent speed—the extra MPHs will launch the ball too high.

PAT STAT

Birdie Average

4.10%

(10th)



*Abbreviate
your finish on
wedge shots
to help "drive"
the ball with
lots of shot-
stopping spin.*



*Three-quarter
backswing with weight
remaining over the ball.*



*"Lean" on the ball through
impact for crisp strikes, and
think "hit down," not "sweep."*

SECRET
5

SWING FAST IN THE SAND

Step on the gas in a bunker. High-speed swings get you on and close.

I rarely look at a greenside bunker as a true hazard, and neither should you. Unless the ball is buried or in some other extra-tough lie, I always try to hole the shot, just as I do with putts or chips. Because I use my lob wedge for almost every short-game swing, including those from greenside bunkers, I know exactly how the club will react in the sand. I also know that the wider sole of my lob wedge will give me enough bounce to swing as aggressively as I want.

As I'm sure you've guessed by now, that's my real secret for a good bunker player: Be aggressive. That means never being tentative with the splash through the sand. To mimic my go-for-it style, make sure your clubhead enters the sand as close to the ball as possible, and give it plenty of speed. Think about "smacking" the wide sole of your wedge against the surface of the sand directly under the ball. I never try inconsistent chunk-and-run bunker shots, and I don't recommend that style for you. Sand is the perfect surface to produce plenty of spin, so take advantage of it, swing away—and make a big splash.



Scan this photo
for more birdie advice
from Pat Reed. See p. 8.

Make every bunker swing aggressive. It's the key to creating the loft and spin that holds any green.

PAT STAT

Proximity to the
Hole from Sand

8' 7"

(43th)

This is Patrick Reed's fourth year on the PGA Tour. He has four wins, \$9.3 million in earnings and is ranked 18th in the world.

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Fore-ward Thinking

The USGA is applying new technologies to help guide the game's future

Perhaps no sport takes more pride in its traditions than golf. Dedicated to honoring and upholding these traditions, the United States Golf Association (USGA) is also leading the game forward by selectively applying advanced technologies to ensure that the organization best serves the game as it evolves.

USGA innovation principally resides in its 20,000-square-foot Research and Test Center. A full-time staff of 17 annually tests more than 3,500 pieces of submitted equipment to assess their conformity with the Rules of Golf.

Engineers and technicians at the Research and Test Center use state-of-the-art technology such as a mechanical golfer that can hit golf balls at club speeds in excess of 125 mph, high-speed video at rates exceeding 100,000 frames per second that capture the ball's behavior when hit, and an indoor test range that ascertains the aerodynamic properties of golf balls traveling more than 180 mph. One simple goal is paramount: a player's skill, not technology, is the dominant factor in determining success on the course.

"We are fortunate to work at the leading golf equipment testing facility in the world," said John Spitzer, the USGA's managing director of equipment standards. "We use the most advanced testing and analysis resources available to balance the innovation that can help a golfer, while also preserving the integrity of the playing experience."

Enhancing the fan experience at championships is also a primary orientation of new USGA technologies. To serve a global audience following the association's three annual U.S. Open championships on usopen.com or usga.org, the USGA uses strategically positioned lasers in multiple locations at each of its venues to supply ball-position data, including distance to hole, accumulated statistics and performance trends. Using trained volunteers to recount and relay the data, the USGA passes real-time information to



The USGA-supported "Learning Science Through Golf" exhibit brings STEM education to life.

its websites to ensure that fans are consistently informed and updated.

"There's an art and science to it," said Ross Galarneau, who oversees USGA championship scoring. "It helps to have the game's most cutting-edge lasers, but

"We use the most advanced testing and analysis resources to balance the innovation that can help a golfer, while also preserving the integrity of the playing experience."

—John Spitzer, USGA

how the data is secured and how it's interpreted depends on not just reporting what's happening, but what it means to the fan. That's when the technology really pays off—when it becomes more relatable and relevant."

Looking to the next generation, the USGA has been a longtime proponent of leveraging technology for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. During this June's U.S. Open at Chambers Bay, as part of its community-oriented Open For All™ programming, the USGA supported a traveling "Learning Science Through Golf" exhibit featuring technology designed to convey STEM principles: Turf and Water Retention (Science); The Flight of a Golf Ball (Technology); Motion and its Effect on the Distance a Golf Ball Will Travel (Engineering); and Determining the Volume of a Golf Club (Math). Building on these successful live interactions, a dedicated STEM microsite is currently being developed on usga.org.

Educating and informing golfers has long been at the forefront of how the USGA serves golf. Empowered by technology, the USGA is holding itself to an even higher standard so that it can lead into the future all who play, and love, this great game.

There's a lot to love about golf



And we're here to make sure it stays that way for years to come.

From the USGA® Handicap System to national amateur championships, to modernizing the delivery of the game's Rules and supporting sustainable golf course management practices, the United States Golf Association promotes the health of a game that inspires, challenges and rewards like nothing else can.

GOLF
MAGAZINE

The **TOP 100** **COURSES**

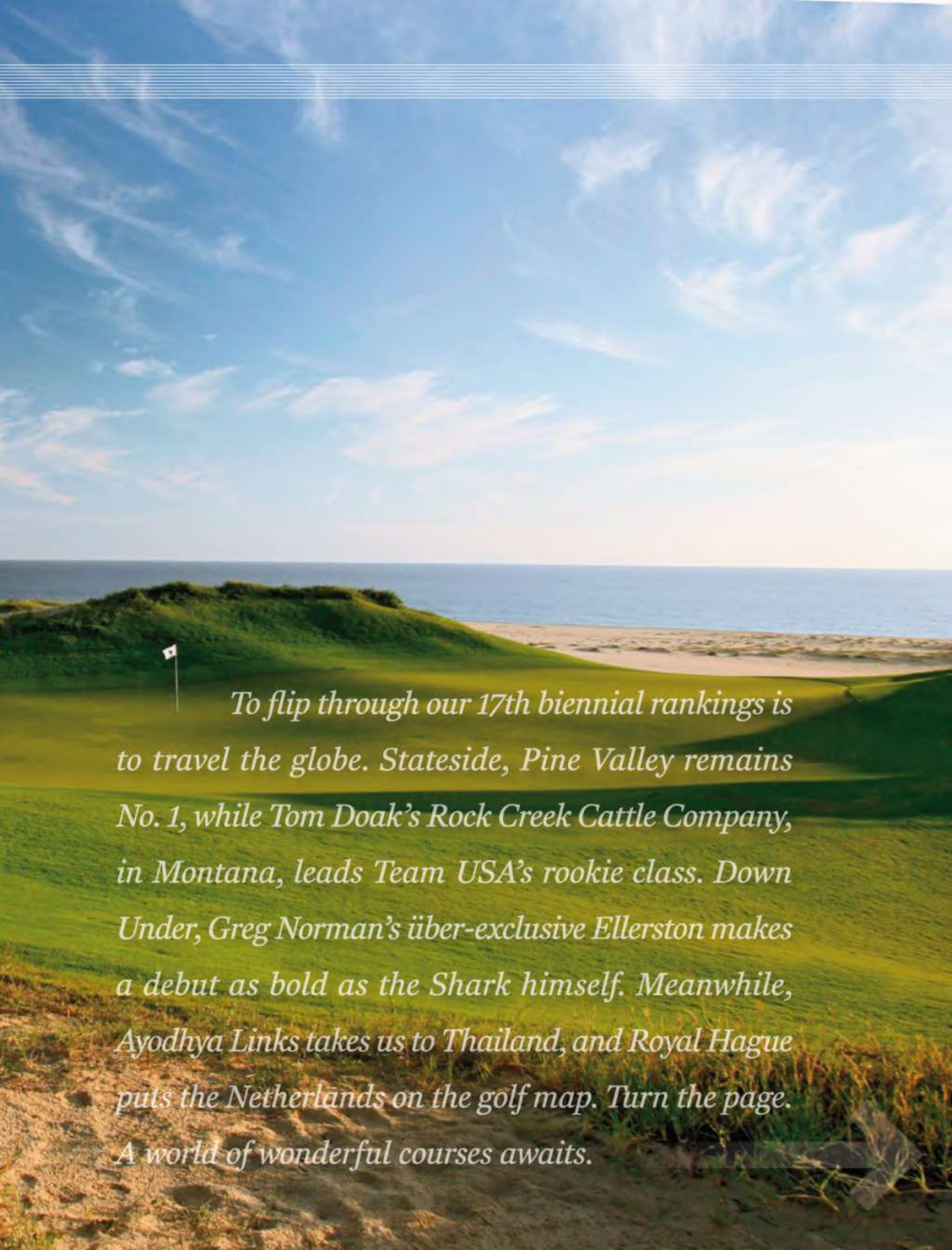
in the U.S. & the World

BY JOE PASSOV, TOP 100 CHAIRMAN

Photograph by Gary Lisbon

#38, **WORLD**

Diamante (Dunes),
in Cabo San Lucas,
Mexico, shot
up 14 spots in our
2015 rankings.



To flip through our 17th biennial rankings is to travel the globe. Stateside, Pine Valley remains No. 1, while Tom Doak's Rock Creek Cattle Company, in Montana, leads Team USA's rookie class. Down Under, Greg Norman's über-exclusive Ellerston makes a debut as bold as the Shark himself. Meanwhile, Ayodhya Links takes us to Thailand, and Royal Hague puts the Netherlands on the golf map. Turn the page. A world of wonderful courses awaits.

The TOP 100 COURSES in the United States



#7: National Golf Links of America, Southampton, N.Y.

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
1	1	Pine Valley Pine Valley, N.J. George Crump/H.S. Colt, 1918	96.79
2	2	Cypress Point Pebble Beach, Calif. Alister MacKenzie, 1928	91.55
3	3	Augusta National Augusta, Ga. Alister MacKenzie/Bobby Jones, 1933	86.13
4	4	Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y. William Flynn, 1931	83.14
5	5	Pebble Beach Pebble Beach, Calif. Jack Neville/Douglas Grant, 1919	79.92
6	6	Oakmont Oakmont, Pa. Henry Fownes, 1903	78.59
7	8	National Golf Links of America Southampton, N.Y. C.B. Macdonald, 1911	75.52
8	7	Merion (East) Ardmore, Pa. Hugh Wilson, 1912	75.05
9	9	Sand Hills Mullen, Neb. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 1994	73.22
10	10	Pinehurst [No. 2] Pinehurst, N.C. Donald Ross, 1907	66.50
11	15	Fishers Island Fishers Island, N.Y. Seth Raynor, 1926	64.36
12	14	Seminole Juno Beach, Fla. Donald Ross, 1929	64.11
13	13	Winged Foot [West] Mamaroneck, N.Y. A.W. Tillinghast, 1923	63.71
14	12	Pacific Dunes Bandon, Ore. Tom Doak, 2001	63.64
15	11	Crystal Downs Frankfort, Mich. Alister MacKenzie/Perry Maxwell, 1932	63.54
16	18	San Francisco San Francisco, Calif. A.W. Tillinghast, 1918	63.07
17	16	Chicago Wheaton, Ill. C.B. Macdonald, 1895/Seth Raynor, 1923	62.83
18	17	Prairie Dunes Hutchinson, Kan. Perry Maxwell, 1937/Press Maxwell, 1957	61.86
19	21	Riviera Pacific Palisades, Calif. George C. Thomas Jr./Billy Bell Sr., 1926	60.30
20	19	Los Angeles [North] Los Angeles, Calif. George C. Thomas Jr., 1921	59.95
21	20	Friar's Head Baiting Hollow, N.Y. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2003	59.09
22	24	The Country Club [Clyde/Squirrel] Brookline, Mass. Willie Campbell, 1895/Rees Jones, 1985	56.77
23	22	Oakland Hills [South] Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Donald Ross, 1917/Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1950	53.26
24	23	Bethpage [Black] Farmingdale, N.Y. A.W. Tillinghast, 1936	53.00
25	25	Kiawah Island [Ocean] Kiawah Island, S.C. Pete Dye, 1991	51.17

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
26	26	Garden City Golf Club Garden City, N.Y. Devereux Emmet, 1899/Walter Travis, 1906	51.08
27	28	Whistling Straits [Straits] Kohler, Wis. Pete Dye, 1998	50.48
28	27	Muirfield Village Dublin, Ohio Jack Nicklaus/Desmond Muirhead, 1974	49.76
29	31	TPC Sawgrass [Stadium] Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Pete Dye, 1980	49.66
30	33	Shoreacres Lake Bluff, Ill. Seth Raynor, 1921	49.12
31	38	Camargo Indian Hill, Ohio Seth Raynor, 1921	48.64
32	29	Baltusrol [Lower] Springfield, N.J. A.W. Tillinghast, 1922	48.03
33	30	Olympic [Lake] San Francisco, Calif. Sam Whiting, 1927	47.88
34	35	Southern Hills Tulsa, Okla. Perry Maxwell, 1936	47.58
35	34	Bandon Dunes Bandon, Ore. David McLay Kidd, 1999	46.88
36	37	Maidstone East Hampton, N.Y. Willie Park Jr., 1924	45.92
37	32	Oak Hill [East] Rochester, N.Y. Donald Ross, 1923	45.83
38	41	Somerset Hills Bernardsville, N.J. A.W. Tillinghast, 1918	44.77
39	36	The Golf Club New Albany, Ohio Pete Dye, 1967	44.75
40	39	Quaker Ridge Scarsdale, N.Y. A.W. Tillinghast, 1926	44.43
41	40	Ballyneal Holyoke, Colo. Tom Doak, 2006	43.40
42	43	Inverness Toledo, Ohio Donald Ross, 1919	42.83
43	58	California Golf Club of S.F. S. San Francisco, Calif. A.V. Macan, 1926/A. MacKenzie, 1928/Kyle Phillips, 2007	42.50
44	47	Winged Foot [East] Mamaroneck, N.Y. A.W. Tillinghast, 1923	41.29
45	42	Harbour Town Hilton Head Island, S.C. Pete Dye/Jack Nicklaus, 1969	40.05
46	44	Medinah [No. 3] Medinah, Ill. Tom Bendelow, 1928	38.29
47	52	Streamsong [Red] Streamsong, Fla. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2012	37.84
48	45	Old Macdonald Bandon, Ore. Tom Doak/Jim Urbina, 2010	37.82
49	46	Old Sandwich Plymouth, Mass. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2004	37.80
50	49	Bandon Trails Bandon, Ore. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2005	37.38

LARRY LAMBRECHT (3)

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
51	50	Plainfield Plainfield, N.J. <i>Donald Ross, 1921</i>	36.90
52	67	Wade Hampton Cashiers, N.C. <i>Tom Fazio, 1987</i>	36.59
53	53	Pasatiempo Santa Cruz, Calif. <i>Alister MacKenzie, 1929</i>	36.38
54	70	Yale University New Haven, Conn. <i>C.B. Macdonald/Seth Raynor, 1926</i>	36.25
55	54	The Honors Course Ooltewah, Tenn. <i>Pete Dye, 1983</i>	35.92
56	62	Streamsong (Blue) Streamsong, Fla. <i>Tom Doak, 2012</i>	35.91
57	73	Piping Rock Locust Valley, N.Y. <i>C.B. Macdonald/Seth Raynor, 1913</i>	35.64
58	48	Spyglass Hill Pebble Beach, Calif. <i>Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1966</i>	35.35
59	71	Sebonack Southampton, N.Y. <i>Jack Nicklaus/Tom Doak, 2006</i>	35.22
60	66	Yeamans Hall Hanahan, S.C. <i>Seth Raynor, 1925</i>	34.91
61	NEW	Rock Creek Cattle Company Deer Lodge, Mont. <i>Tom Doak, 2008</i>	34.35
62	51	Valley Club of Montecito Montecito, Calif. <i>Alister MacKenzie, 1929</i>	34.33
63	59	Congressional (Blue) Bethesda, Md. <i>D. Emmet, 1924/Robert T. Jones Sr., 1962/Rees Jones, 2011</i>	34.29
64	60	Baltusrol (Upper) Springfield, N.J. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1922</i>	33.33
65	57	Newport Newport, R.I. <i>Willie Davis, 1894/A.W. Tillinghast, 1923</i>	33.14
66	56	Shadow Creek North Las Vegas, Nev. <i>Tom Fazio/Steve Wynn, 1990</i>	32.93
67	NEW	Essex County Club Manchester, Mass. <i>Donald Ross, 1917</i>	32.92
68	78	Eastward Ho! Chatham, Mass. <i>Herbert Fowler, 1922</i>	32.91
69	90	Myopia Hunt Club South Hamilton, Mass. <i>Herbert Leeds, 1896</i>	32.78
70	68	Peachtree Atlanta, Ga. <i>Robert Trent Jones Sr./Bobby Jones, 1948</i>	32.65
71	55	Nanea Kailua-Kona, Hawaii <i>David McLay Kidd, 2003</i>	32.37
72	75	Cherry Hills Cherry Hills Village, Colo. <i>William Flynn, 1923</i>	31.93
73	NEW	The Creek Club Locust Valley, N.Y. <i>C.B. Macdonald/Seth Raynor, 1923</i>	31.67
74	76	Kittansett Marion, Mass. <i>William Flynn/Fred Hood, 1922</i>	31.66
75	77	Milwaukee River Hills, Wisc. <i>H.S. Colt/C.H. Alison, 1929</i>	31.56

#73: The Creek Club, Locust Valley, N.Y.



#93: Mountain Lake, Lake Wales, Fla.

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
76	64	Chambers Bay University Place, Wash. <i>Robert Trent Jones II, 2007</i>	31.33
77	69	Monterey Peninsula (Shore) Pebble Beach, Calif. <i>Bob Baldock, 1961/Mike Strantz, 2004</i>	30.97
78	NEW	Old Town Club Winston-Salem, N.C. <i>Perry Maxwell, 1939</i>	30.94
79	84	Ridgewood (West/East) Paramus, N.J. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1929</i>	30.83
80	63	East Lake Atlanta, Ga. <i>Tom Bendelow, 1908/Donald Ross, 1913/Rees Jones, 1994</i>	30.64
81	74	Gozzer Ranch Harrison, Idaho <i>Tom Fazio, 2007</i>	30.40
82	85	Interlachen Edina, Minn. <i>Willie Watson, 1911/Donald Ross, 1921</i>	30.28
83	79	Trump National (Old) Bedminster, N.J. <i>Tom Fazio, 2004</i>	29.89
84	93	Hazeltine National Chaska, Minn. <i>Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1962/Rees Jones, 1990</i>	29.74
85	65	Scioto Columbus, Ohio <i>Donald Ross, 1916</i>	29.62
86	81	Boston Golf Club Hingham, Mass. <i>Gil Hanse, 2005</i>	29.53
87	80	Olympia Fields (North) Olympia Fields, Ill. <i>Willie Park Jr., 1922</i>	29.50
88	61	Calusa Pines Naples, Fla. <i>Michael Hurdzan/Dana Fry, 2001</i>	29.42
89	94	Baltimore (Five Farms East) Lutherville, Md. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1926</i>	29.41
90	83	Bel-Air Los Angeles, Calif. <i>George C. Thomas Jr./Billy Bell Sr., 1926</i>	29.40
91	86	Colonial Fort Worth, Texas <i>John Bredemus, 1935/Perry Maxwell, 1940</i>	29.26
92	NEW	Trump National Doral (Blue Monster) Miami, Fla. <i>Dick Wilson, 1962/Gil Hanse, 2014</i>	29.05
93	NEW	Mountain Lake Lake Wales, Fla. <i>Seth Raynor, 1916</i>	29.00
94	89	Blackwolf Run (River) Kohler, Wis. <i>Pete Dye, 1988</i>	28.97
95	88	Fox Chapel Pittsburgh, Pa. <i>Seth Raynor, 1925</i>	28.92
96	97	Bellerive St. Louis, Mo. <i>Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1959/Rees Jones, 2007</i>	28.91
97	95	Country Club of Fairfield Fairfield, Conn. <i>Seth Raynor, 1920</i>	28.64
98	100	Crooked Stick Carmel, Ind. <i>Pete Dye, 1964</i>	28.49
99	98	Torrey Pines (South) La Jolla, Calif. <i>Billy Bell Jr., 1957/Rees Jones, 2001</i>	28.11
100	82	Aronimink Newtown Square, Pa. <i>Donald Ross, 1928</i>	27.97

The TOP 100 COURSES in the WORLD



#5: Royal County Down, Newcastle, Northern Ireland.

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
1	1	Pine Valley Pine Valley, N.J., U.S. George Crump/H.S. Colt, 1918	96.79
2	2	Cypress Point Pebble Beach, Calif., U.S. Alister MacKenzie, 1928	91.55
3	4	St. Andrews [Old Course] St. Andrews, Scotland Nature, 1400s	87.29
4	3	Augusta National Augusta, Ga., U.S. Alister MacKenzie/Bobby Jones, 1933	86.13
5	6	Royal County Down Newcastle, N. Ireland Old Tom Morris, 1889	83.29
6	5	Shinnecock Hills Southampton, N.Y., U.S. William Flynn, 1931	83.14
7	7	Pebble Beach Pebble Beach, Calif., U.S. Jack Neville/Douglas Grant, 1919	79.92
8	8	Oakmont Oakmont, Pa., U.S. Henry Fownes, 1903	78.59
9	10	Muirfield Gullane, Scotland Old Tom Morris, 1891/H.S. Colt, 1925	76.07
10	11	National Golf Links of America Southampton, N.Y., U.S. C.B. Macdonald, 1911	75.52
11	9	Merion (East) Ardmore, Pa., U.S. Hugh Wilson, 1912	75.05
12	13	Royal Melbourne [West] Melbourne, Australia Alister MacKenzie, 1926	73.36
13	12	Sand Hills Mullen, Neb., U.S. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 1994	73.22
14	14	Royal Dornoch [Championship] Dornoch, Scotland Old Tom Morris, 1886	70.68
15	15	Royal Portrush [Dunluce] Portrush, N. Ireland H.S. Colt, 1929	69.50
16	16	Pinehurst [No. 2] Pinehurst, N.C., U.S. Donald Ross, 1907	66.50
17	17	Ballybunion (Old) Ballybunion, Ireland Lionel Hewson, 1906/Tom Simpson, 1936	66.18
18	24	Fishers Island Fishers Island, N.Y., U.S. Seth Raynor, 1926	64.36
19	22	Seminole Juno Beach, Fla., U.S. Donald Ross, 1929	64.11
20	21	Winged Foot (West) Mamaroneck, N.Y., U.S. A.W. Tillinghast, 1923	63.71
21	20	Pacific Dunes Bandon, Ore., U.S. Tom Doak, 2001	63.64
22	19	Crystal Downs Frankfort, Mich., U.S. Alister MacKenzie/Perry Maxwell, 1932	63.54
23	18	Trump Turnberry [Ailsa] Turnberry, Scotland Willie Fernie, 1902/P. Mackenzie Ross, 1951	63.53
24	27	San Francisco San Francisco, Calif., U.S. A.W. Tillinghast, 1918	63.07
25	23	Carnoustie [Championship] Carnoustie, Scotland A. Robertson, 1842/Old Tom Morris, 1872/James Braid, 1926	62.88

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
26	25	Chicago Wheaton, Ill., U.S. C.B. Macdonald, 1895/Seth Raynor, 1923	62.83
27	26	Prairie Dunes Hutchinson, Kan., U.S. Perry Maxwell, 1937/Press Maxwell, 1957	61.86
28	28	Kingston Heath Melbourne, Australia Dan Sauter, 1925/Alister MacKenzie, 1928	61.81
29	33	Riviera Pacific Palisades, Calif., U.S. George C. Thomas Jr./Billy Bell Sr., 1926	60.30
30	30	Los Angeles [North] Los Angeles, Calif., U.S. George C. Thomas Jr., 1921	59.95
31	32	Friar's Head Baiting Hollow, N.Y., U.S. Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2003	59.09
32	31	Royal Birkdale Southport, England George Lowe Jr., 1889/Fred Hawtree, 1932	58.35
33	29	Royal St. George's Sandwich, England W. Laidlaw Purves, 1887	57.66
34	42	The Country Club [Clyde/Squirrel] Brookline, Mass., U.S. Willie Campbell, 1895/Rees Jones, 1985	56.77
35	39	Sunningdale (Old) Sunningdale, England Willie Park Jr., 1901/H.S. Colt, 1922	55.83
36	34	Barnbougle [Dunes] Bridport, Tasmania, Australia Tom Doak/Mike Clayton, 2004	55.49
37	41	New South Wales La Perouse, Australia Alister MacKenzie, 1928/Eric Apperly, 1951	54.93
38	52	Diamante [Dunes] Cabo San Lucas, Mexico Davis Love III/Mark Love/Paul Cowley, 2010	54.31
39	46	Casa de Campo [Teeth of the Dog] La Romana, Dominican Republic, Pete Dye, 1971	54.13
40	38	Cape Kidnappers Hawke's Bay, New Zealand Tom Doak, 2004	53.98
41	40	Lahinch (Old) Lahinch, Ireland Old Tom Morris, 1894/Alister MacKenzie, 1927	53.80
42	37	Hirano Kobe, Japan C.H. Alison, 1932	53.78
43	45	Nine Bridges Jeju Island, South Korea Ron Fream/David Dale, 2001	53.75
44	35	Oakland Hills [South] Bloomfield Hills, Mich., U.S. Donald Ross, 1917/Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1950	53.26
45	53	Morfontaine Senlis, France Tom Simpson, 1927	53.02
46	36	Bethpage [Black] Farmingdale, N.Y., U.S. A.W. Tillinghast, 1936	53.00
47	78	Shanqin Bay Bo'ao, Hainan Island, China Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2012	52.03
48	50	Trump International Golf Links Aberdeen, Scotland Martin Hawtree, 2012	51.44
49	44	Royal Troon (Old) Troon, Scotland Willie Fernie, 1887	51.25
50	43	Kiawah Island [Ocean] Kiawah Island, S.C., U.S. Pete Dye, 1991	51.17

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ERIC HEPWORTH; BEN COWAN; DEWAR; BRIAN MORGAN

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
51	47	Garden City Golf Club Garden City, N.Y., U.S. <i>Devereux Emmet, 1899/Walter Travis, 1906</i>	51.08
52	49	Whistling Straits [Straits] Kohler, Wis., U.S. <i>Pete Dye, 1998</i>	50.48
53	48	Muirfield Village Dublin, Ohio, U.S. <i>Jack Nicklaus/Desmond Muirhead, 1974</i>	49.76
54	58	TPC Sawgrass [Stadium] Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., U.S. <i>Pete Dye, 1980</i>	49.66
55	54	Portmarnock (Old) Portmarnock, Ireland <i>George Ross/W.C. Pickeman, 1894</i>	49.46
56	61	Shoreacres Lake Bluff, Ill., U.S. <i>Seth Raynor, 1921</i>	49.12
57	70	Camargo Indian Hill, Ohio, U.S. <i>Seth Raynor, 1921</i>	48.64
58	65	Oitavos Dunes Cascais, Portugal <i>Arthur Hills, 2001</i>	48.30
59	51	Baltusrol (Lower) Springfield, N.J., U.S. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1922</i>	48.03
60	57	Olympic (Lake) San Francisco, Calif., U.S. <i>Sam Whiting, 1927</i>	47.88
61	59	Royal Lytham & St. Annes Lytham St. Annes, England <i>George Lowe Jr., 1897</i>	47.77
62	64	Southern Hills Tulsa, Okla., U.S. <i>Perry Maxwell, 1936</i>	47.58
63	68	North Berwick (West) North Berwick, Scotland <i>David Strath, 1878</i>	47.40
64	63	Bandon Dunes Bandon, Ore., U.S. <i>David McLay Kidd, 1999</i>	46.88
65	55	Kingsbarns St. Andrews, Scotland <i>Kyle Phillips, 2000</i>	46.56
66	67	Maidstone East Hampton, N.Y., U.S. <i>Willie Park Jr., 1924</i>	45.92
67	71	Kawana (Fuji) Kawana, Japan <i>C.H. Alison, 1936</i>	45.90
68	60	Oak Hill (East) Rochester, N.Y., U.S. <i>Donald Ross, 1923</i>	45.83
69	56	Castle Stuart Inverness, Scotland <i>Gil Hanse/Mark Parsinen, 2009</i>	45.69
70	62	Woodhall Spa (Hotchkin) Woodhall Spa, England <i>Harry Vardon, 1905/H.S. Colt, 1912/V. Hotchkin, 1926</i>	44.92
71	77	Somerset Hills Bernardsville, N.J., U.S. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1918</i>	44.77
72	66	The Golf Club New Albany, Ohio, U.S. <i>Pete Dye, 1967</i>	44.75
73	NEW	Ellerston Ellerston, Australia <i>Greg Norman/Bob Harrison, 2001</i>	44.55
74	73	Quaker Ridge Scarsdale, N.Y., U.S. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1926</i>	44.43
75	82	Cabot Links Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada <i>Rod Whitman, 2012</i>	43.79

#47: Shanqin Bay, Bo'ao, Hainan Island, China.



#75: Cabot Links, Inverness, Nova Scotia.

2015 Rank	2013 Rank	Course Name Architect/Year Opened	Average Score
76	NEW	Ayodhya Links Bangkok, Thailand <i>Thomson/Perrett/Lobb/Pitak Intrawityanunt, 2007</i>	43.68
77	79	Cruden Bay Cruden Bay, Scotland <i>Herbert Fowler/Tom Simpson, 1926</i>	43.65
78	75	Ballyneal Holyoke, Colo., U.S. <i>Tom Doak, 2006</i>	43.40
79	83	Inverness Toledo, Ohio, U.S. <i>Donald Ross, 1919</i>	42.83
80	84	Ganton Ganton, England <i>Harry Vardon, 1905</i>	42.66
81	NEW	California Golf Club of S.F. S. San Francisco, Calif., U.S. <i>A.V. Macan, 1926/A. MacKenzie, 1928/Kyle Phillips, 2007</i>	42.50
82	69	Royal Liverpool Hoylake, England <i>George Morris, 1869</i>	42.10
83	76	Waterville Waterville, Ireland <i>Eddie Hackett, 1973</i>	41.83
84	NEW	Winged Foot (East) Mamaroneck, N.Y., U.S. <i>A.W. Tillinghast, 1923</i>	41.29
85	72	Barnbougle Lost Farm Bridport, Tasmania, Australia <i>Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw, 2010</i>	40.97
86	80	Walton Heath (Old) Tadworth, England <i>Herbert Fowler, 1904</i>	40.79
87	87	St. George's Islington, Ontario, Canada <i>Stanley Thompson, 1929</i>	40.78
88	95	Royal Porthcawl Porthcawl, Wales <i>H.S. Colt, 1913</i>	40.57
89	92	Swinley Forest Ascot, England <i>H.S. Colt, 1910</i>	40.56
90	86	European Club Brittas Bay, Ireland <i>Pat Ruddy, 1992</i>	40.14
91	81	Harbour Town Hilton Head Island, S.C., U.S. <i>Pete Dye/Jack Nicklaus, 1969</i>	40.05
92	NEW	Koninklijke Haagsche Wassenaar, Netherlands <i>H.S. Colt/C.H. Alison, 1938/Frank Pont, 2007</i>	40.00
93	91	Machrihanish Machrihanish, Scotland <i>Charles Hunter, 1876/Old Tom Morris, 1879</i>	39.98
94	74	Kauri Cliffs Kerikeri, New Zealand <i>David Harman, 2000</i>	39.87
95	NEW	Sunningdale (New) Sunningdale, England <i>H.S. Colt, 1922</i>	39.81
96	93	Tokyo Tokyo, Japan <i>Komyo Ohtani, 1940</i>	39.46
97	100	Durban Country Club Durban, South Africa <i>Laurie Waters/George Waterman, 1922</i>	39.29
98	96	Rye Camber, England <i>H.S. Colt, 1894/Tom Simpson, 1932/Guy Campbell, 1938</i>	39.23
99	98	Valderrama Sotogrande, Spain <i>Robert Trent Jones Sr., 1974</i>	38.86
100	97	Cabo del Sol (Ocean) Cabo San Lucas, Mexico <i>Jack Nicklaus, 1994</i>	38.38

Rookie Sensations

Tom Doak. Coore/Crenshaw. And, yes, The Donald, too. Some big names helped create the 12 new, and newly discovered, courses that join our rankings—with six additions to the U.S. list alone. Has your favorite made the cut?

TOP 100 IN THE UNITED STATES

61

Rock Creek Cattle Company

Among Tom Doak's finest work since he crafted Pacific Dunes, Rock Creek Cattle Co. is surrounded by a 30,000-acre ranch in southwestern Montana. The beefy, 7,466-yard, par-71 layout plays shorter than its listed distance due to the 4,567-foot elevation, although the horns come out via the deep, jagged-edge bunkers and the severely contoured greens. Doak routed a beguiling blend of holes across the rugged terrain, and each one benefits from majestic mountain backdrops. Not every panelist warmed to the abundance of blind shots encountered during a round, yet wide, fescue-framed fairways and a lack of rough around the plateau greens enhance playability for all. A variety-filled round is bookended by the

435-yard, par-4 first, which showcases a split fairway, and the 598-yard, par-5 18th, played from a cliff overlooking a trout stream, with the snowcapped mountains gleaming in the distance.

67

Essex County Club

Charm, intimacy and fiendishly contoured greens characterize one of Donald Ross's early masterworks, a 1917 creation that unfolds over rumpled terrain near the sea northeast of Boston. Its minuscule back-tee length of 6,401 yards strikes fear into no one. Instead, the course owes its stature to its superior mix of memorable holes, ranging from the 623-yard, par-5 third, which plays to a green defined by a sunken-tub hollow, to the 175-yard par-3 11th, its plateau green defended by gaping traps. The bunker variety displayed here is unparalleled for a Ross design, and

the green-shaping is among his most sophisticated. Lexi Thompson is one of the few who have solved the Essex putting riddles, posting a 4-0-1 record during the 2010 Curtis Cup Match. Credit for bringing the course back to prominence goes to Bruce Hepner of Tom Doak's Renaissance Design firm. In 2001, he restored the bouncy conditions and Old World mounds, thinned the trees, and expanded fairways and greens to reestablish a reward for strategic driving and properly placed approaches.

73

The Creek Club

A mainstay of our U.S. Top 100 through 2007, the Creek Club returns to glory in 2015. The 1923 collaboration between C.B. Macdonald and protégé Seth Raynor is another example of an old-timey course reconnecting with our panelists.



#61

In the shadow of the Flint Creek Mountain range, the left fairway bunkers are your target on Rock Creek's par-4 16th.

The TOP 100 COURSES Issue

This layout on Long Island's north shore radiates enjoyment rather than frustration, stretching less than 6,500 yards from the tips. After a quiet opening quintet, the drama is amplified on the 450-yard, par-4 sixth, which starts with a panorama of Long Island Sound and then plunges to a punchbowl green guarded by low mounds and a gargantuan bunker. From there, it's a parade of wind-whipped holes featuring trees, reed-edged marshes and Frost Creek, an inlet of the Sound that gave the club its name.

78 Old Town Club

Few knew Old Town existed until Tom Doak named it one of "10 Courses Worth Groveling to Play" in his 1996 *Confidential Guide*. In 2013, Coore/Crenshaw got connoisseurs talking again when they restored many of the unique original elements to this 1939 Perry Maxwell design in Winston-Salem, N.C. Maxwell was considered a genius when it came to green design—he's best known for his work at Prairie Dunes, Southern Hills, and as Alister MacKenzie's collaborator at Crystal Downs. There's no better set of "Maxwell's Rolls" on display than at Old Town, which sits adjacent to Wake Forest University and was a testing ground for young stars Arnold Palmer and Lanny Wadkins. According to Bill Coore, Maxwell's routing is "a treatise on how to put outstanding golf holes onto a small, severely hilly property." Coore, a Wake Forest grad himself, considers Old Town and Pinehurst No. 2 the most influential courses in his appreciation and understanding of architecture. Now back in place are the lacy-edged bunkers, the classic tees and fairway lines, and a double green shared by holes 8 and 17. Old Town, consider yourself discovered.



LARRY LAMBRECHT



COURTESY TRUMP NATIONAL DORAL

#92
In his renovation of Doral's Blue Monster, Gil Hanse lengthened the fifth hole by 40 yards.

92 Trump National Doral Miami (Blue Monster)

This course is almost as polarizing as its owner. The freshly fanged Blue Monster earned substantial, if not universal, applause among our panelists. Supporters cited Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner's makeover, which turned a tired, overbunkered resort course into a fire-breather that again lives up to its name, and that has become one of the toughest

tests on the PGA Tour. Added yardage, altered angles and steeper slopes around the greens strengthened Nos. 1, 8 and 10, a trio of once cupcake par 5s. Heightened risk/reward drama has changed the par-3 ninth and par-3 15th. Putting surfaces now have new contours, both bold and subtle. One of Hanse's favorites, the par-4 11th, sports small plateaus back-left and back-right. Some voters gripe that Florida's persistent breezes, paired with the current design features, make the course far too difficult. But as a muscular test of golf, the Blue Monster has few peers.



#78

It may look serene at dawn, but the 629-yard, par-5 17th hole at Old Town Club is a beast.

93 Mountain Lake

The quietest newcomer to the U.S. Top 100 rookie class is a veritable museum piece of early Seth Raynor design. Set in rolling terrain an hour south of Orlando, Mountain Lake is within shouting distance of Iron Mountain, one of central Florida's highest points. Although countless U.S. courses are tougher, not many match this charmer's timelessness. In typical Raynor fashion, template holes make up many memorable tests. Notable examples include "Double Plateau," the 368-yard, par-4 first hole, with its three-greens-in-one configuration; "Alps," the 398-yard, par-4 third, whose fall-away green is obscured by a ridge; and "Redan," the 181-yard, par-3 11th, where a diagonal green slopes away on both sides toward foreboding bunkers. Like any 99-year-old, this layout has been ravaged by time. But in 2002, architect Brian Silva used old aerial and ground photos to restore bite to its bunkers and to shape the greens. Silva's deft reworking has earned Mountain Lake a place in the pantheon.

COURTESY GREAT WHITE SHARK ENTERPRISES

TOP 100 IN THE WORLD

73 Ellerston

How exclusive is this club? On average, just three foursomes tee it up. Not per day. *Per week.* It was created in 2001 at the behest of Australia's richest man, the late media tycoon Kerry Packer. Set in the rugged bush country of the Upper Hunter Valley, a four-hour drive northwest of Sydney, the muscular, drama-filled Greg Norman/Bob Harrison design features plentiful forced carries over deep gullies and ravines. Most of the course is set in a valley, with Pages Creek influencing play on half the holes. Other holes traverse higher ground; from the 10th green to the 13th tee, the course climbs 300 feet. Standouts are the holes edged by streams, such as the par-3 sixth, the par-5 10th and especially the par-4 16th, which is bordered by a majestic cliff face. Immaculate conditioning pairs with Norman's Sandbelt-style bunkers and chipping areas, tangles of buffalo grass and a collection of ridge-top targets, to form a beautiful if brutal test of any player's golf skills.

76 Ayodhya Links

Thailand's first-ever entry into the Top 100 might be misnamed—this "Links" is nowhere near the sea. Question the moniker, not the quality. The highly private domain of well-connected Thais sits an hour northeast of Bangkok. Ayodhya achieves Top 100 status not with natural attributes such as cliffs, oceans or major elevation changes—it has none of those—but with an inspired design. Aussie legend Peter Thomson and his partners Ross Perrett and Mike Lobb conceived and routed the course, and co-founder and chairman Pitak Intrawityanunt completed the job in 2007. Forced to rebuild after a 2011 flood, Ayodhya emerged better than ever. The conditioning is superior and there's a remarkable variety of holes. Ayodhya poses a supreme challenge, thanks to its 7,626 yards, cunningly placed bunkers and ingenious greens. The putting surfaces are large, firm, fast and varied. Between the size, configuration and contours, no two greens are alike. This roomy oasis amid the chaos of Bangkok and its surroundings succeeds on every level.



#73

Australia's Ellerston features a plummeting par-3 15th hole. Hey, they don't call it "Down Under" for nothing.

The TOP 100 COURSES Issue

81 California Golf Club of San Francisco

Long overshadowed for rankings glory by neighbors San Francisco Golf Club and the Olympic Club, the “Cal Club” finally cracked our U.S. Top 100 in 2011. Additional positive reviews from course-ranking panelists have boosted it into the World Top 100. Dating to 1926, the course hit its stride following an Alister MacKenzie makeover in 1928. Not until Kyle Phillips reworked the layout in 2007, however, did the Cal Club reach its peak. Massive cypress trees, rolling terrain and gorgeously crafted bunkers define this northern California treasure.

84 Winged Foot (East)

It’s baaaaack, and with a vengeance. A Top 100 in the World stalwart since 1991, Winged Foot East, in Westchester County, N.Y., stumbled and missed our rankings list in 2013. A marvelous, recent restoration by Gil Hanse has ensured the course’s comeback. Much shorter yet nearly as challenging as its celebrated sibling, the West, the charming East offers improved pacing, more variety, and additional water hazards. Roberto De Vicenzo claimed the first U.S. Senior Open here in 1980, and the course has hosted two U.S. Women’s Opens (1957 and 1972). Selective tree removal and bunker work have also enhanced the East, yet it’s Hanse’s precision in re-creating the intricate A.W. Tillinghast green contours—notably, the back of the green at the par-5 12th and the fiendish false front at the par-4 14th—that has truly elevated this 92-year-old track.

92 Koninklijke Haagsche

Known as “Royal Hague” to most, the Netherlands’ first Top 100 contribution belongs to the nation’s oldest golf club,

which dates to 1893. This 1938 H.S. Colt/C.H. Alison/J.S.F. Morrison creation replaced the club’s original course, which was destroyed in World War II. Heaving fairways amid dunes and inland forests set the tone for a remarkable lay-of-the-land journey. Located a few miles from the North Sea, the course—with steady



THIS SPREAD: GARY LISBON (3)

#76
Don’t be fooled by the largely flat Ayodhya Links. The contours are sneaky on the par-4 10th.



#95
The 10th hole at Sunningdale [New] is a 217-yard par 3 with, well, plenty of tree trouble.



#81

At San Francisco's "Cal Club," the par-3 12th hole is a mere 232 yards—uphill.



breezes and puzzling, tree-framed, wildly rolling terrain—is a spiritual cousin to Britain's partly wooded seaside layouts. Gene Sarazen called it "the toughest course I've seen in Europe." After Dutch architect Frank Pont's recent, sensitive restoration of greens and bunkers, plus the addition of new tees, "the Hague" again lives up to Sarazen's accolade.

95 Sunningdale (New)

Like a sibling in the shadow of the family's older favorite son (the Old), this 92-year-old H.S. Colt design, 30 miles

west-southwest of London, now shines on its own merits. Supporters have long praised it as the superior modern test. At 6,729 yards, the New is some 300 yards longer than the Old and traverses higher ground. It's also stronger, with long carries over heather and sharper drop-offs around the elevated greens. Moreover, it's truer to its heathland setting, with fewer trees and deeper bunkers. Colt's fifth hole—an uphill thrust through trees and over a heathery, sandy gully to a green framed by bunkers—is the best par 3 on the property. And the dogleg par-5 sixth, a 1930s replacement hole from Colt's original design, offers superb risk/reward on the second shot and a perched green that rejects all but the surest strikes.

KPMG *presents* LEADERS IN THE CLUBHOUSE | EXECUTIVE WOMEN + GOLF

Condoleezza Rice

66th U.S. Secretary of State

CONDOLEEZZA RICE WAS A POWER PLAYER BEFORE

she ever took up golf. Today, the game is one of her many passions. Rice was the first African-American woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State as well as one of the first women to become a member at Augusta National Golf Club. She makes time to play in between her myriad responsibilities, including her work as Denning Professor for Stanford's Global Center for Business and the Economy.

You're an avid golfer. Why? I started golf the summer after I became Secretary of State. Golf allowed me to be outside in the most beautiful places. That's still true. But the real attraction is that you never quite master the game. Just when you think you've finally gotten it, you mis-hit a shot and think, Where did that come from? I like the discipline of it—and the sense that I might actually get better.

This past spring, the Stanford women's golf team won its first NCAA team championship, and you welcomed them back to campus. That moment told me something about the importance of sports, for women particularly. Even though golf is an individual sport, in that context it's a team sport, where the ability to pick each other up

and to keep going through adversity—a bad shot or a bad hole—is a bit like life. Sports are wonderful for teaching that perseverance. I was an athlete, a competitive figure skater, and I had to learn that the next day you had to get up and keep trying. It's a lesson I've taken with me through life.

Sports are also valuable at teaching teamwork—how individuals can work together and complement each other. What qualities have you sought when putting together your own teams in academia or politics? Chemistry and synergy are important, but for me, they come from people who come from different perspectives, backgrounds, experiences. I like the cacophony of people bouncing off of one another and having different views. If you are in a position of authority and you don't have truth tellers around you, you're not going to be a very good leader.

You were a keynote speaker at the KPMG Women's Leadership Summit that was part of the 2015 KPMG Women's PGA Championship. What message did you most want to share? That women make great leaders, that they are making great leaders. They need opportunities to get together and see that there are other women leaders succeeding. That can send a very strong message to young women on their way up that, yes, there are still barriers and glass ceilings, but really the only limitations are the horizons you set for yourself. If we can get young women to not fear leadership, to not assume that there are going to be barriers, we are going to see women leaders flourish for a long time to come.

“The real attraction to golf is that you never quite master the game. I like the discipline of it—and the sense that I might actually get better.”

— Condoleezza Rice





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The
**TOP 100
COURSES**
Issue

#1 *ever*

Lahinch

No. 13 is a 279-yard, drivable par-4 with a three-tiered green. Such quirks make the course unforgettable.

What elevates one great course over



Our raters aren't required to follow strict criteria when evaluating courses (see p. 78). What do they look for when assessing a design? And how do they determine that a given revered track is better than another? We chose two courses in our World Top 100 with similar traits—Lahinch (No. 41) and Waterville (No. 83)—and asked two panelists, **architect David McLay Kidd** and **course connoisseur Ran Morrisett**, to reveal what gives one rumpled links in southwest Ireland an edge over another. In course design, it turns out, little things matter a lot.

SUS

Waterville

The exposed, dunes-heavy back-nine—including the 594-yard, par-5 18th—rounded out the course in 1973.

another? The devil's in the details.

The TOP 100 COURSES Issue



PANELIST: David McLay Kidd

Course designer
(Bandon Dunes, Nanea)

Lahinch and Waterville are set within amazing landscapes hard against the rollicking Atlantic. Courses on such a canvas can't help but be memorable, but Lahinch also oozes history and individuality. Goats roam the course, and blind shots abound. It's a perfect example of a great Old World course tailored by Father Time and years of adjustment. The "flaws"—blind, cramped or some overly whimsical holes—have long since been fixed or established as tradition: quirks not to be repeated but now beloved by generations.

Waterville is still developing its pedigree. It was designed as a nine-holer in 1889 and then abandoned before being remodeled, including an extension to 18 by Eddie Hackett in 1973. The original nine was laid out over pasture, not dunes, and this is its Achilles' heel. In 2006, Tom Fazio undertook a major remodel to address this weakness, doing what he does best: creating a landscape where there was none; in this case, keeping with the dunescape that existed naturally on half the site. A masterful job by a masterful creator.

How We Rank Them



Rankings are determined by a 100-strong international panel whose members include major-championship winners, architects, journalists and a cadre of connoisseurs who have played all of the world's top 100 courses. Panelists evaluate a ballot of 493 courses. Although there are no set-in-stone criteria they must follow, we have confidence in their sense of what constitutes "greatness" in a course. Each course that places in the top three on a ballot earns 100 points; spots 4-10 earn 85 points, followed by 11-25 (70 pts), 26-50 (60 pts), 51-75 (50 pts), 76-100 (40 pts), 101-150 (30 pts), 151-200 (20 pts), 201-250 (10 pts) and 251+ (0 pts). Course owners can't vote for their properties, and architects can't vote for their original designs.



Lahinch

The tee shot on the 424-yard, par-4 sixth isn't blind, but the view of the Atlantic Ocean can make it seem so.



Waterville

Spectacular mountainous dunes line the par-4 15th hole, known as Vale.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MIKE HOLSKA/DOUGLEG STUDIOS; LARRY LAMBERT/DANIEL KANNON/GETTY IMAGES



PANELIST:
Ran Morrisett

Course connoisseur
and founder of
GolfClubAtlas.com

COURTESY RAN MORRISSETT

Lahinch is consistent with a course on which golf has been played in three different centuries. It embodies old-school design features, highlighted by the blind approach to the Klondyke par-5 fourth and the Dell par-3 fifth. And its holes are strewn across the tumbling landscape in every manner imaginable, making it one of golf's most exhilarating venues. A good deal of imagination is required to conquer this fast-and-firm-running links, especially around the greens, where short grass is often utilized to carry balls away

from perched locations. I rate Lahinch a little higher than Waterville because the land has more random contours and firmer terrain, both of which test your mettle and introduce one or two more maddening events per round.

When Eddie Hackett designed Waterville in the early 1970s, the notion had taken hold that a player should be able to see what is being asked of him. Strong players, for whom Waterville was built, like being able to fully assess the situation and then delight in executing the shot that is required. Hence, the holes at Waterville are presented in a more straightforward manner than those at Lahinch, and the course's fairways and greens possess fewer unexpected contours. Additionally, the game is more aerial at Waterville, and

its heavier soil generally means that balls don't release as far as the faster-running fescue fairways at Lahinch.

Both settings are equally spectacular and windswept, but they tax you in different ways. Lahinch's historic fairways are more crumpled—lumpy and bumpy—so both good and bad fortune occurs more quickly there, courtesy of fairways that have been spared the dozers for more than a century. The shorter Lahinch has more scoring opportunities, but one weird bounce into a bad lie and the golfer quickly finds that his mental state is challenged to the nth degree. On the other hand, at Waterville you're likely to get what you deserve from your hit, which oftentimes can be a depressingly frank indictment of one's game! ■



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GOLF DREAM HOUSE



The Dream House is a transitional coastal design situated on the 14th hole of the world-class Talis Park golf course in Naples, Fla.

FROM
Dream
TO
Reality

The **GOLF Dream House** is finally finished and ready to provide the ultimate golfing experience.

Every golfer's fantasy sticks to a similar script: wake up in a beautiful home, pull on the spikes and walk out the front door directly onto the fairway. At Talis Park in Naples, Fla., there is no need to fantasize—the GOLF Dream House is here.

Nestled on the 14th hole of Talis Park, the Dream House provides golfers unparalleled access to one of the most distinct, pedigreed courses on the planet. The dual brainchild of legendary golfer Greg Norman and distinguished course designer Pete Dye, the par-72 Talis Park is a premier course for players who desire a challenging round in an idyllic setting.

The home itself is a collaboration among Interiors by Design West, BCBE Custom Homes, Sunwest Homes and Weber Design Group. The Dream House has all the luxurious trappings for living and entertaining in style. Eat breakfast on the lanai patio before you tee off, and turn the indoor bar into your own 19th hole once you finish your round. Cool off in the swimming pool before retiring to the game room for billiards and poker, and don't forget to grab a cigar from the humidor. The GOLF Dream House is the best way to turn your golfing fantasy into a reality.



Talis Park is a premier course for players who desire a challenging round in an idyllic setting.



"With an open concept and a clean design, the Dream House is perfect for entertaining, relaxing and prepping for your next round of golf."

— GLENN MIDNET
President and CEO
Interiors by Design West

Leader in the Clubhouse

President Trump? He'll never win, they say. Of course, they also said he'd never land a major (the '22 PGA) or impact design (four Trump tracks make our rankings). As always, the most polarizing man in America comes out swinging.

Interview by Joe Passov

Photograph by Mirjam Evers

Not content to be a towering figure in New York, The Donald—seen here at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point—wants to leave his mark on golf. And America, too.

DONALD TRUMP

is not, as he has often been called, a lightning rod. He's the lightning—a loud, powerful, unpredictable force of nature. Love him or hate him, he has been a boon to golf, engaging in several high-profile development projects at a time when the sport needed a boost. In all, Trump owns and operates 16 courses around the globe, among them flashy acquisitions like Doral and Turnberry, and the recently opened Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, a long-in-the-works world-class track in the Bronx, within view of the Manhattan skyline.

Trump, of course, has been making headlines for reasons that go far beyond golf. He's running a highly controversial presidential campaign—and, as of late summer, leading Republican hopefuls in the polls. Tellingly, his 26th-floor office in Midtown Manhattan boasts framed letters from presidents and, befitting a capitalist icon, billion-dollar views of Central Park. I met him there shortly before he announced his presidential bid, and followed up with him soon after he made his shocking and unseemly remarks about Mexican immigrants. In our exchanges, The Donald was by turns impassioned, playful and combative, insisting that his incendiary utterances have not damaged his relationships with golf's governing bodies, despite evidence to the contrary. Time will →



The TOP 100 COURSES Issue

tell if Trump's bluster costs him the 2022 PGA Championship, slated for his flagship course in New Jersey.

For all his bombast, Trump has a deep reservoir of respect for golf's traditions. He remains a true champion of the game, and he's capable of surprisingly sharp insight, especially on the subject of course design. Lightning can shock and do damage. It can also illuminate.

You're 69 years old, and you have a great life—fame, a beautiful wife, billions in wealth, not to mention an impressive portfolio of courses and real estate. Why do you want to be president? Or is this, as your critics charge, about building your brand? Our country's in trouble. It's been run by people who are incompetent. It's been run by politicians who are all talk, no action. They don't get it done. Just take the example of my Ferry Point project—it was under construction [by another developer] for decades, and I got it done in a matter of months. This country has great potential, but if changes aren't made soon, it's going to be too late, so I'd like to make the country great again. It's that's simple.

We should address the comments you made in June, when you announced your candidacy. You said of Mexico, "They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems to us. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people." In reaction, golf's governing bodies distanced themselves from you, and the PGA took the 2015 Grand Slam of Golf away from your course in Los Angeles. Do you think their action was justified? I have a great relationship with the PGA. [PGA of America president] Derek Sprague and [PGA CEO] Pete Bevacqua—they're fabulous people. Beyond that, I have no comment.

Do you feel your policies and remarks on Mexican immigration are insensitive and even unwise in light of the fact that so many course maintenance workers—some on your own courses—come from Mexico?

It turned out that my comments were correct, and again, there's been total vindication. People have been apologizing

"I'm doing fine with golf's governing bodies. I will just say this: Trump Golf is extremely strong and powerful. I've been vindicated on everything. Totally."



In June, while announcing his bid for the presidency, Trump's fiery words offended many, including PGA officials.

[to me]. Even media people have been apologizing. What I talked about was illegal immigration, and that's now the hottest topic there is. I brought it to the forefront. I've been given great credit for it, including the fact that I'm leading all the polls.

Do you fear permanent damage to your relationships with the PGA and other governing bodies? And do you worry about losing the 2022 PGA Championship, which has been awarded to Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey?

There is no answer to these questions. I don't want to get involved, because, frankly, I'm doing fine with all the governing bodies. I will just say this: Trump Golf is extremely strong and powerful.

So you have zero concerns that your brand has been tainted by your remarks?

You see what's happened. I've been vindicated on everything. Totally vindicated. Everyone agrees I'm right, and that's why I'm No. 1 in the polls.

Well, not everyone agrees. The PGA moved the Grand Slam of Golf to a different course because of your comments.

Here's my response. You ready? I'm No. 1 in every poll, okay? You know, I'm running for president, what can I tell you? If you were to have called me two weeks ago, it was a different story. You see what's happened. Again, I've been vindicated on everything I've said.

With your celebrity and unvarnished opinions, you're a big target for critics. Yet you're one of the few people investing in the game and keeping golf in the news. Why is Donald Trump good for golf?

Well, I love great real estate, and I buy great real estate. I started building when I built [Trump National in suburban New York City], which is a



STAN BADZ/PGA TOUR

great success, and then [Trump International] in Palm Beach. But I love beauty, and I love the beauty of golf. I put them all together, and it's worked out. Golf is doing really well. People don't realize it. I mean, my courses are full. It's a great business at the high end. If you want to buy a good course today, you can't buy it. I could never buy Turnberry today. I could never buy Doral today. I could never buy any of the courses today that I bought [in recent years]. The price would be three, four, five times what I paid. I made great deals because I bought them at the right time, at the depths not only of the golf market but the real estate market. The whole economy had crapped out. But golf is doing really well. High-end golf is doing fantastically well. And I always say golf should be an aspirational sport. You become successful, and you go out and play golf. I've been good for golf. I've built great courses, and I've also saved great courses.

What does the future hold for Ferry Point, in the Bronx? Do you hope to bring tournaments there?
I'm very proud of it. It's 350 acres in New York City, minutes away from Manhattan. It's a Jack Nicklaus Signature course, built to the highest standards of tournament

In 2013, Trump hosted the WGC-Cadillac Championship—and Bo Van Pelt and Matt Kuchar—at Doral, in Miami.

golf. I think it's going to have many great championships and massive crowds because there's no better location. It fronts the East River, which is unheard of. You're on those fairways and you're looking right smack at the skyline of New York. We're very proud of it because it was under construction for decades. I got it built rapidly because that's what I do.

Do you subscribe to the old-school assertion that a difficult course equates to greatness?
Ben Hogan said he never saw a great course that was easy. And I believe that. I don't think a great course can be easy.

The redesigned Blue Monster at Doral opened last year to generally positive acclaim. Yet, at this year's WGC-Cadillac, a few guys took some shots at it. Brandt Snedeker's caddie called it the "worst course I've ever caddied on," and Ian Poulter suggested it unfairly favored big hitters. How do you respond?
It opened to great reviews. It is a tough course, as it should be. We tweak it a bit every year. Don't forget that the winner [of the WGC-Cadillac Championship] used to shoot 21 to 25 under par. Now it's 9-under [in 2015] and 4-under [2014] winning it. Honestly, I haven't heard any negatives. [The makeover] was a tough one because the course had a history,

but not a Turnberry-type history, where it's sacred. We were just going to do a redo—new greens and tees—but as Gil Hanse and I started opening up vistas, we realized that this is an unbelievable piece of land. Four weeks into the project, we said, "Let's blow it up and build a great new course." One problem before was that it was very flat, which is typical of Florida. The people couldn't get views of Tiger and Phil and all these great players. We moved almost two million yards of earth and created tremendous mounding so that people can see. It's a brand-new course. The players love it.

What was the thought process behind redesigning Turnberry?
Turnberry is many people's favorite course in the world. It was always one of my favorites. So you have to be gentle when you have a treasure like this. It's had some of the best Open Championships in history, and the best one ever, I think—the "Duel in the Sun," Tom Watson against Jack Nicklaus [in 1977]. The R&A loves and cherishes Turnberry. The first thing I did when I was lucky enough to buy Turnberry was to call Peter Dawson and the R&A. I said, "What would you like to do?" They'd been wanting to make changes for decades. They strongly recommended architect Martin Ebert, who's been working with Turnberry for years. He's terrific. Every time Gary Player would play a Championship there, he would say—he would *scream*—"Why isn't the ninth hole a par 3?" I mean, it was so obvious that it should be a par 3.

Compare Turnberry with Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeen, your greatest design achievement to date.
They're very different. I'm very proud of my Aberdeen course. I have 2,000 acres. I bought the land having been told that you can't even walk on the dunes, let alone build between the dunes. They're the largest dunes in the world. It's a spectacular place that's doing really well. Everybody's been journeying to that →

The TOP 100 COURSES Issue

location because of what I've done, which has also been good for Cruden Bay and Royal Aberdeen and other places. First of all, Aberdeen's a great area. It's the oil capital of Europe and is a thriving area. I have a rough comparison between the two. Turnberry has very jagged edges, just unbelievable rock formations. You have the tremendous, beautiful lighthouse now under construction. The lighthouse will be the halfway house, with two suites at the top. There will be no halfway house in the world like this! We also have the ruins of the house of [Scottish king] Robert the Bruce, from the 1300s. The local university is helping us unearth more ruins. It's hard to compare anything to that history.

With Aberdeen, it's much different. It's got a magnificent shoreline, sandy beaches and total protection from the weather and the wind by the dunes, because these dunes are the largest dunes in the world. And it's pristine. It's the ultimate links course, because you have dune protection on every hole. And at the same time, you have ocean views on every hole. If you asked which will be better when Turnberry is finished, I couldn't say. But I can tell you that Turnberry has a tremendous pedigree.

Trump Aberdeen opened in 2012 after a brutal Scottish winter. We named it Best New International Course. Six months later, our panelists ranked it No. 50 in the world in its first year of eligibility. [This year, it's ranked No. 48.] Were you pleased, disappointed, or somewhere in between?

Disappointed, because it's much better than that. It is, I believe, the greatest course ever built. If you look at some of the courses—I won't mention names because I have a lot of respect for some of the guys who do the work—and compare them to Aberdeen, they're like toys. [PGA of Europe chief executive] Sandy Jones toured the course and said,



"I have just walked the greatest golf course ever built." Jones is a highly respected person. That's the kind of reviews we got. It's not 50. It's No. 1. It blows away any course on your list. It's not even a contest.

In 2014, you purchased Doonbeg, in Ireland, a stunning but flawed Greg Norman design that always fell short of Top 100 honors. You renamed it Trump International Golf Links Ireland. What changes have you made there?

We blew it up. I blew up 65 percent of it last year. I bought 500 acres of the best piece of land in Europe. I also have a hotel that is considered one of the best in the world. They [the original developers] spent \$350 million. They spent a tremendous amount of money building this project, and then the Irish economy crashed about as bad as any economy did. I went in during a brief moment with literally an hour to close, and I gave them a check and bought the whole thing. And everybody wanted it because Doonbeg is special.

I then retained Martin Hawtree to look at the course because the land was so good, and in all fairness to Greg Norman, they were not able to get the permits, so they couldn't use some of the best land.

Trump's stunning links in Aberdeen was designed by Martin Hawtree, the same fixer he brought in to get the kinks out of Doonbeg.

They had a problem with [environmentally protected] snails, and a tidal problem, and they were unable to get various approvals, so they had to leave some of the best land unused.

I hired Martin Hawtree and said to the Irish government, "Do you want a truly great course? Or we can make do with what we have." It's successful either way, but they said, "We want it to be great." I said, "Then we have to solve the snail problem and the other problems and get this thing moving." I soon had every permit I wanted. The other 35 percent gets blown up on October 1. The course will be brand-new for next season, 100 percent rebuilt, and it's incredible.

Course rankings like ours reward a few and frustrate many. How important are they to you?

Well, it depends on which list you mean. Some lists are highly political—and they're false lists. Generally, I've been treated well. I think that [Trump National Golf Club Washington D.C.] should be a top-10 course. Top 10! Bedminster should be a top-20 course. I honestly think I have 10 courses that should be in your Top 100. And I know the best courses.

Talk to our course raters. Which Trump courses are deserving of more love?

[Trump National Golf Club] in Philadelphia is phenomenal. It adjoins Pine Valley. [Trump International] in Palm Beach should, without question, be a top-25 course. But it's a highly private course. One problem I have is that I have members, and all my courses are full or close to full. If I let raters go to Palm Beach and play, I'll have a revolution because I have a full parking lot virtually every morning. I can't have all these magazines and their raters on these courses. I won't have

openings for my members. Other guys can do that because they have nobody playing. My courses are full. I can't tell the most successful people in the country, "Sorry, you can't tee off at 8 a.m. because I have raters here."

Let's spread the love. What are your top five favorite non-Trump tracks?

I've been a member of Winged Foot for many years. I love Winged Foot. I love Augusta. I love the beauty. I love the way it's maintained. And I love the history. The Old Course [at St. Andrews] is very special. Pebble Beach is a place where I just like being there, although I have a course that's better than Pebble Beach, in Los Angeles...

Not to cut you off, but this question is about non-Trump courses.

[Laughs] Okay, but [Trump National in] L.A. is actually better. I'm redesigning it now with Gil Hanse. But Pebble has always been something. Cypress Point is special. Those are the five courses.

Are you bidding for a Ryder Cup?

I'd love to have a Ryder Cup. Aberdeen is a natural for it, and so is Ferry Point.

You'd have a great hook at Ferry Point: "The Battle in the Bronx."

Well, [Trump National Golf Club in] Washington may be the most natural of all, because you're on the Potomac River. My friends at Congressional come over [to play it] and say, "This place blows us away," and I say, "You're missing one thing at Congressional: the Potomac."

You're a 4-handicap, which would make you the best golfer-in-chief we've ever had. How much golf is appropriate for a president to play?

I think a president should play golf, but you should only play with people where you can get something done. I don't think

A tireless tinkerer even of venerable golf properties, Trump is turning Turnberry's lighthouse into a luxe halfway house.



RUSSELL CHEVENE/ACTION IMAGES VIA ZUMA PRESS

Trump loves Turnberry but adores his Aberdeen links. "It blows away any course on your list. It's not even a contest."

you should play too much with your old friends, just to have a good time.

Oh, come on—what's wrong with the most powerful person in the world having some fun and decompressing on the course?

What I'm saying is, had President Obama played with [House Speaker John] Boehner more and played with all the different people that he couldn't deal with, it would have helped him, because some of the best deals I've ever made were made on the course. You become friends with people on the course much more so than you do over lunches or dinners. Golf is wonderful for a president to play, but it should be working golf.

Let's end on a personal note. Your connection to Doral dates back to rounds you played there with your dad when you were a teen. What are your golf memories of your father?

He had a really good golf swing. It's funny, my father didn't play golf. He played maybe one round a year, and I played with him those rounds. He had a really good swing for a man who didn't play. My father just loved the feel of Doral in the 1960s—all these wonderful acres, all that greenness in the middle of Miami. I loved my father. And now he's looking down and saying, "I can't believe you bought that place." Because that was a hot place. Doral was hot from the day it was built.

It's obvious what Doral means to you. What has golf meant to you?

It's meant beauty. It's meant competition. It's meant fun. I've met wonderful people in golf. I just don't meet bad people in this game. It's strange. I meet terrible people in real estate and terrible people in show business. I meet terrible people in politics. People in golf are just incredible. And golf has allowed me to build some great courses and save some great courses. I've created a lot of jobs, a lot of happiness. So that's what it's meant. It's meant a lot. ■

GOLF DREAM HOUSE



The natural warmth of wood is the star of the Dream House.

A Natural Fit

Wood-Mode's rich and vibrant custom cabinets give the Dream House a distinct style.

FROM FLOORS TO CEILINGS, nothing gives a home more gravitas than wood. Cabinetry is an integral part of any house and one of the most stylistically important components. For GOLF Magazine's Dream House at Talis Park in Naples, Fla., wood was the only choice for cabinetry, and no one creates cabinets like Wood-Mode.

Wood-Mode is a Pennsylvania-based premium-grade cabinet company that specializes in custom design solutions. For more than 70 years, Wood-Mode has taken trees from the lush forests of the Northeast and turned them into exquisite and functional cabinetry. It is not a simple task—even wood from the same tree can vary greatly from piece to piece, so building requires a careful eye and premium standards.

"It's not an assembly-line product," says Jeff Wolfe, Wood-Mode's director of marketing. "It's a very crafted and customized line."

With a wide selection of options, finishes and wood species, there is no limit to the amount of personal customization Wood-Mode offers. And despite its name, Wood-Mode uses a lot more than just wood. Cabinets made from walnut, cherry or maple—to name a few—can

be integrated with leather, glass or stainless steel elements for a little extra flair.

Wood-Mode's products are featured throughout the Dream House, and not just in the kitchen. From bathroom cabinetry to the multiple bars to the library and entertainment center, Dream House interior design firm Design West used the natural character of wood to add a level of sophistication to this golfers' paradise.

"Wood-Mode is much more than just kitchens," says Glenn Midnet, President and CEO of Design West. "Anything we can dream and design, they can build."

The two companies have a long-standing relationship, which made Wood-Mode a natural fit for the Dream House.

"Through creativity in the design, the repertoire is limitless," says Midnet. "Designs won't look the same from room to room because of the flexibility and depth of their product offering."

"It's about working with the designer and the client," says Wolfe. "We provide as many tools for the designer as possible. It's like golf: With the right clubs in the bag, your game is more precise."

With the Dream House, Wood-Mode and Design West collaborated to create a design champion.

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THE BEST NEW GEAR

Edited by Rob Sauerhaft

Precious Metals

FOUR MIZUNO IRONS THAT CAN HELP ANY PLAYER

By Michael Chwasky and Mark Dee Photography by James Westman

Forged-iron aficionados covet Mizuno sticks for their clean shape, shot-making precision and distinctive sensation at impact. A proprietary process called “Grain Flow Forging” improves the responsiveness of the soft carbon steel clubheads. The new lineup features three forgings (and one cast model), all packed with technology to improve Mizuno’s hallmark: great feel. The MP models are built for accomplished players looking primarily for feel and maneuverability, while the JPXs target players who put distance and forgiveness above all else.

JPX-EZ

\$800, steel; \$900, graphite; golf.com/mizuno

Mizuno’s R&D team set out to build the company’s longest iron for 10- to 25-handicappers without sacrificing forgiveness or resorting to overly strong lofts. The key here is a “dual pocket cavity” that leads to a thinner, livelier clubface. The result is

faster ball speeds and driver-like COR in the mid-irons, equal to the current JPX-850 irons. Besides that, a super-stable “Power Frame” design moves mass to the extreme corners of the cavity to help mitigate your misses. In addition, the club has a lower sweet

spot than the current EZ irons, which makes it easier to launch higher shots that carry farther and land more softly. The “triple cut” sole appears relatively wide to the naked eye but offers more of the versatility that’s associated with a thin-sole iron.

The sole and face shape create a hybrid-like look.





By pairing a beveled leading edge with a blunt trailing one, the JPX-EZ Forged—which features Mizuno's widest forged iron sole—plays like a thin-soled club.

JPX-EZ Forged

\$1,000, steel;
\$1,100, graphite

The JPX-EZ Forged, for 8- to 18-handicappers, is constructed from boron-reinforced carbon steel, which is lighter and 30 percent stronger than the steel typically used in irons. That allows for a thinner face and a wider, deeper cavity in the 4- through 7-irons, which means that a larger area of the face flexes at impact. The combination leads to a boost in ball speed and forgiveness over the current JPX-EZ Forged model. Like the new JPX-EZ, it also employs the "Power Frame" to further increase MOI. In addition, a reinforced topline supports the flexible clubface and enhances impact feel.



The MP-5 is for players with a 6-handicap or lower.

MP-5

\$1,000, steel;
\$1,100, graphite

Mizuno's newest blade combines the ease of a shallow cavity back with a traditional, highly workable muscleback. The MP-5 is built on a very similar chassis to the MP-64. In fact, company testing made sure it plays exactly the same: The two clubs have the same CG depth, sweet-spot height and forgiveness level. A progressive "channel back" thickens the head behind the hitting area and toward the toe. That means you'll get more help on misses—without losing the feel, feedback and playability of a classic muscleback.

Micro slots run from the sole into the cavity to increase face flex. A carbon steel cap is welded over the sole slot and a rubber gasket covers the opening in the cavity.



MP-25

\$1,000, steel; \$1,100, graphite

Mizuno's team combed through hundreds of online reviews to find out what folks thought about last year's MP-54. Turns out some found it bulkier and a little shorter than a few competitors. So the MP-25—designed for 0- to 10-handicappers—needed to be smaller but still play longer than its predecessor. Mizuno's engineers

added boron to strengthen the steel and backed the thinnest face of any MP iron with "micro slots" in the 3- through 6-irons to boost ball speed. In company testing, the MP-25 put out 2.6 percent more speed and 7.3 percent less spin. All told, that's 4 percent more distance—up to 7.5 yards longer, with tighter dispersion.

KILLING IT SOFTLY

Titleist's new DT TruSoft ball is ultrasoft and plenty long

By Michael Chwasky



For the past decade, the demand for softer golf balls has continued to grow. Titleist recognized this trend and responded. The company already had the popular NXT Tour when it debuted a softer version called NXT Tour S in 2012. That same year, it reengineered the plush DT SoLo to feel even softer. Then there are the flagship Pro V1 and Pro V1x, which received new, softer covers earlier this year.

Now comes the DT TruSoft, which Titleist touts as not only the softest ball in its current lineup, but the softest ball produced in the 67-year history of its DT franchise. The new model, set to replace the DT SoLo, is the result of two years of research and

development. In that time, Titleist engineers figured out how to provide players with a silkier feel than DT SoLo without sacrificing any distance or short-game performance. It's simple, really. The new, two-piece construction has a larger, lower-compression core than before, surrounded by Titleist's softest Surlyn-blend cover ever. These elements provide a softer sensation on shots throughout the bag. Add to that the same tetrahedral, 376-dimple design as the DT SoLo and you have a ball that the company says spins less off the driver, flies slightly lower and has a shallower angle of descent than its predecessor. That means more roll—and overall distance—off the tee for a wide range of players, regardless of swing speed.

The company's robot testing shows that the DT TruSoft has similar spin numbers to DT SoLo on full wedge (100 yards) and partial wedge (50 to 65 yards) shots. Plus, it's made in the company's U.S.-based manufacturing facility, which allows Titleist to maintain tight tolerances from ball to ball. Available in white or yellow. \$22/dozen



The DT TruSoft ball replaces the popular DT SoLo.

SOMETIMES *This Close* IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BRAG ABOUT



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WEDGE IT CLOSE FROM ANYWHERE WITH THESE SHORT-GAME TOOLS *By Michael Chwasky*



Callaway MD3 Milled

\$130

golf.com/callaway

Callaway milled the MD3's grooves to optimize spin for each loft, while three different sole grinds ("S," "C," and "W") are tailored to different turf conditions and swing types. The W-grind has the widest sole and is best in soft conditions and for players with steep attack angles. The S-grind is the most versatile; it handles a range of conditions and should work for moderately steep to sweeping swings. The C-grind (pictured) is for firmer conditions, with added heel and toe relief suitable for open-face shots. The MD3 Milled has a high toe and weight-saving ports in the back of the head, and it comes in chrome or black.



Mizuno S5

\$130

golf.com/mizuno

Mizuno's giving the boot to its old wedge lineup—the MP and JPX monikers are out. Instead, the new S5 is a one-stop-shopping club that's designed to appeal to players who prefer Tour-style MP models, as well as those who want the extra help of a JPX. The carbon steel S5 employs Mizuno's Grain Flow Forged technique for a solid, precise feel. Plus, the CNC-milled faces have loft-specific quad-cut grooves—narrower and deeper in the Gap wedges, wider and shallower in the Sand and Lob—to best suit how you'll use the wedge. The sole designs are individually tailored, too: High-bounce heads have wider soles to amplify the effective bounce, while low-bounce heads have narrower soles. The S5 comes in either a white satin or metallic blue finish.

Unlike their ever-evolving bagmates, today's wedges aren't typically celebrated for their high-tech features. They should be. After Gene Sarazen modernized the sand wedge in the 1930s, decades passed without any major advancements in this short-game tool. But like modern woods and irons, today's wedges are packed with high-performance features, including milled faces, creative sole grinds, innovative hosel configurations and specialty grips, plus a range of loft and bounce combinations. If you're still using the weathered wedge you found in the used-clubs bin, it's time to upgrade your short game with one of these state-of-the-art scoring weapons.



Ping Glide ES
\$130, steel; \$150, graphite
golf.com/ping

Ping's newest model adds a fourth sole option to the Glide line. Made from 431-stainless steel, the ES (Eye Sole) joins the standard sole (SS), wide sole (WS) and thin sole (TS). The ES head shape and scooped sole design are inspired by the original Eye2 sand wedge. This one has a tapered hosel that's smaller than the original, qualities that create less drag through the sand. Plus, the grooves are specifically designed to help maximize spin on partial swings, while the chrome-plated head repels moisture for improved performance from wet lies. All Glide options come with a proprietary grip that's longer than standard to keep your hands on the grip as you choke down on the club. Available in 56°, 58° and 60° lofts.



Cleveland Smart Sole 2.0
\$110, steel; 120, graphite
golf.com/cleveland

The updated Smart Sole comes in two models only—the S (stands for sand) and C (chipper)—for players who want the maximum amount of help with their short game. The S model (pictured) is a 58° club with a wide, forgiving sole that's designed to bounce off the sand regardless of your attack angle on square-face shots. Compared with the original Smart Sole, the 2.0 has extra material removed from the heel and toe to allow for more versatility without sacrificing any stability. The 42° chipper also has a wide sole to minimize fat and thinned shots, while its upright lie angle promotes more of a putting motion on chips. Cleveland recommends the chipper for shots from inside 30 yards. Both heads have a vibration-dampening plaque in the back cavity.

GO BIG OR GO HOME

Two readers pick up a combined 33 extra yards with fitted Srixon drivers

By Michael Chwasky



DANNY MORELOS

Age: 49 Handicap: 11
Height: 5'7" Weight: 165 lbs.
Occupation: Airline employee
Residence: Cerritos, Calif.

OLD DRIVER: 460 cc head, 10.5°, 73-gram graphite shaft, S-flex, 45.5" length.

NEW DRIVER: Srixon Z 545 with adjustable loft, 8.5° set to 9.5°, 1.5° closed face angle, 70-gram Mitsubishi Fubuki graphite shaft, S-flex, 45" length.



FITTER: Lawrence Melendez, custom fitter, Srixon Golf. "Danny was launching the ball too high with a high spin rate. That led to a very steep angle of descent and little roll—a terrible combination for distance."

FIX: Danny was fit to a Srixon Z 545 driver, which has a high MOI. A 9.5° head gives him less loft and a lower launch than in his previous driver. Combined with a stiffer-tipped shaft, the lower loft also decreased his spin rate. The new shaft is a half-inch shorter than his previous one, but Danny's swinging faster with the new club. Plus, closing the face helps him draw the ball, generating extra roll—and more distance.

RESULT: Danny added eight yards of carry and 15 yards overall, although his ball speed actually dipped by 1 mph. How? He reduced spin by close to 1,000 rpm and lowered his launch angle by 3°, creating a 10° flatter angle of descent. It just goes to show that launch angle, spin rate and angle of descent are real keys to distance.

DANNY'S REACTION: "This was an amazing experience. In 20-plus years of playing, I've never been fit and didn't know anything about my launch or spin numbers. I thought my old driver matched my swing fairly well because I could get it in play consistently. But the lower launch and spin of the new model gives me a huge boost in distance."

Driver	Old	New
CLUBHEAD SPEED (mph)	99.5	101.5
BALL SPEED (mph)	148.0	147.0
SMASH FACTOR	1.45	1.45
LAUNCH ANGLE (deg.)	17.0	14.1
SPIN RATE (rpm)	2,980	2,050
DESCENT ANGLE (deg.)	46	36
CARRY DISTANCE (yards)	245	253
TOTAL DISTANCE (yards)	263	278



IGOR SUVOROV

Age: 52 Handicap: 6
Height: 5'10" Weight: 165 lbs.
Occupation: Dance instructor
Residence: Huntington Beach, Calif.

OLD DRIVER: 460 cc head, 10.5°, 50-gram graphite shaft, R-flex, 45.5" length.

NEW DRIVER: Srixon Z 745 with adjustable loft, 10.5° set to 9.5°, 1.5° open face angle, 60-gram Mitsubishi Kuro Kage graphite shaft, S-flex, 45" length.

FITTER: Melendez: "Igor had a repeatable swing with a fairly flat attack angle, which created a lot of right-to-left movement. His old driver was too light and too flexible for him, and the face was closed. All of that led to high spin rates, which hurt his distance and accuracy."

FIX: Igor was fit to a Srixon Z 745 driver, which has a smaller profile, 430 cc head, and a more penetrating launch. The open face reduces spin and straightens his natural draw shot shape, which can turn into a hook. Pairing it with a 10-gram heavier shaft also cut down on spin, which allows him to swing with more confidence.

RESULT: Reducing Igor's spin rate by 1,000 rpm and flattening out his descent angle by five degrees gives him, on average, 12 more yards of carry and 18 more yards overall. The heavier shaft and slightly open face helps him hit the ball straighter by reducing his draw tendency.

IGOR'S REACTION: "I always thought the swing was everything and didn't believe that a fitting would make a real difference in my play. However, I quickly saw that by reducing my spin and adding some roll to my shots, I was able to gain close to 20 yards of distance over my old club. I'm quite impressed with the results."

Driver	Old	New
CLUBHEAD SPEED (mph)	97.6	97.8
BALL SPEED (mph)	141.5	141.8
SMASH FACTOR	1.45	1.45
LAUNCH ANGLE (deg.)	14.3	14.1
SPIN RATE (rpm)	3,463	2,454
DESCENT ANGLE (deg.)	43	38
CARRY DISTANCE (yards)	224	236
TOTAL DISTANCE (yards)	242	260

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WHAT I PLAY

Lydia Ko

THE 18-YEAR-OLD FORMER WORLD NO. 1 RELIES ON A BAG FULL OF CALLAWAYS

77.7%

Lydia's average greens in regulation, first on the LPGA Tour.

Source: LPGA Tour, through August 12, 2015

FAIRWAY WOODS*

Callaway Big Bertha Alpha 815,

14°, 220 yards and 18°, 205 yards.

Both have Graphite Design Tour AD DI 5 graphite shaft, regular flex; \$200 each

LYDIA SAYS: "The 3-wood isn't just for second shots on par 5s. I hit it off the tee, too. It has a good flight—it doesn't float up on windy days, and it isn't too low on a normal day, either."

IRONS

Callaway Apex Pro.

5-PW, UST Mamiya Recoil 670

F3, regular flex; \$1,100, steel;

\$1,300, graphite (set of 8)

5-iron: 168 yards

6-iron: 158 yards

7-iron: 148 yards

8-iron: 138 yards

9-iron: 128 yards

PW: 112 yards

LYDIA SAYS: "I used to really like bigger heads. But when I was clubfitting the first time, I left the Apex out a little right, while these Apex Pros turned the shape I like to hit [draw]. They're comfortable off tight grass and off the tee. I've changed the shafts a bit—the color, weight and all that."

WEDGES

Callaway Mack Daddy

2 Tour Grind, 54°, 85 yards;

59°, 65 yards. Both have UST

Mamiya Recoil 670 F3 graphite

shaft, regular flex; \$130,

steel; \$170, graphite

LYDIA SAYS: "Both wedges have been pretty awesome—it doesn't matter what the lie is. I love the spin I get. They have the little groove marks. We fiddled with the grind—the "T" grind is the best one for any kind of course."

DRIVER

Callaway Big Bertha Alpha 815 Double

Black Diamond, 9°, Graphite Design Tour

AD DI 5, regular flex, 45°, 251 yards; \$350

LYDIA SAYS: "I put it on the draw setting so it would turn over easier, and I picked up a couple of yards compared with last year. It feels like a Japanese club. It has a lot of spring. Some clubs sound cardboardy, but this isn't too tinny or flat."

HYBRIDS

Callaway Big Bertha Alpha

815, 23°, 185 yards; \$180

Callaway Big Bertha, 25°, 175

yards; \$250. Both have Graphite

Design Tour AD DI 75, regular flex

LYDIA SAYS: "They're very comfortable to hit, with pretty big heads, so there's room for error. They go through really easy, even if you don't have a great lie."

PUTTER

Odyssey Works 2-Ball, 33", \$180

LYDIA SAYS: "I'd been using the Tank Cruiser 330 midsize mallet. The 2-Ball is great for alignment. I have a black line on top. That's the really cool thing about it—you're pretty much aligning three balls together."

BALL

Callaway SR 3; \$40/dozen

LYDIA SAYS: "This is the first year I've used a Callaway ball. During the fitting, this was the best model compared with the one I was using. It has a similar softness and spin numbers."

* At press time, Lydia had swapped the 18° fairway wood for a 20° Big Bertha Alpha 815 hybrid.

FROM THE EDITORS OF GOLF.COM

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To keep from making an insufficient turn (above, left), put a dab of shaving cream on your chin and simply turn your shoulder into it.



STRAIGHT HITTER

You keep the ball in play, but a lack of distance puts pressure on your game.

'Shave' Strokes with More Distance

Want to add 10 to 15 yards to your drives? Place a dab of shaving cream on your left chin, take your normal setup and make a complete backswing turn, holding your position at the top for a second or two. Try to turn your lead shoulder past and directly into your chin.

Now look at your left shoulder—it should be covered in shaving cream. If it's not, you

either didn't turn the shoulder enough, or you rotated it under your chin. Both moves provide little coil—and little power. However, if you swing back on a slightly flatter plane and turn your back to the target, you'll feel a good stretch at the back of your left shoulder, and your left arm should wrap around your chin. This puts you in a more powerful hitting position at the top and leads to more distance almost without effort.



LOW HANDICAPPER

You play well but want to shave those last few strokes off your handicap.

Hitting a short chip to a green that slopes away from you demands a lot of height and spin.



How to Put a Soft Touch on Your Chips

You've short-sided yourself and now face a delicate little chip of about 10 yards, with the green sloping away from you. To stop the ball close to the hole, you'll need to create some height and plenty of green-grabbing spin. Here's how to get your ball to check up and nestle near the hole for an easy up-and-down par.

STEP 1: PLACE THE SHAFT IN NEUTRAL

Set up with your weight evenly distributed over both feet, the ball slightly forward of center in your stance, and your hands just behind the ball. The last adjustment is critical, because it allows you to slip the clubhead under the ball to produce additional height and spin. Start with a fairly neutral clubshaft position (that is, straight up and down), and return the shaft to the same position at impact.



Start with your weight balanced, the ball forward and your hands slightly behind the ball.

STEP 2: SHALLOW OUT YOUR DOWNSWING

As you swing back, rotate your torso slightly away from the target, which promotes a shallowing effect on the downswing. Feel as though your hands are dropping down toward your body on the downswing rather than out toward the ball-target line—this further shallows out the clubhead's angle of descent into the ball. Unlike a normal chip, you're not trying to hit down on the ball; rather, you want to make the clubhead slip under the ball with a lot of speed.

Rotate your torso away from the target to create a shallower swing path.



STEP 3: CREATE SOME SPEED

Now swing the clubhead briskly through impact, slipping the clubface under the ball. It will feel like you're giving the grass a short trim with the bottom of the clubhead. Stop when your hands are about hip-high on the follow-through. This encourages you to stay shallow and aggressive with your swing. Don't baby this shot—you'll risk blading it or catching it fat. More speed means more spin, just what you need on this shot.

Stay aggressive—more swing speed means more spin and more stopping power.





SENIOR PLAYER

You have lost some flexibility and power, but you can still play well.



On uphill shots, aim for the back of the green, much like a basketball player aiming for the back of the rim.

Go the Distance on Uphill Approaches

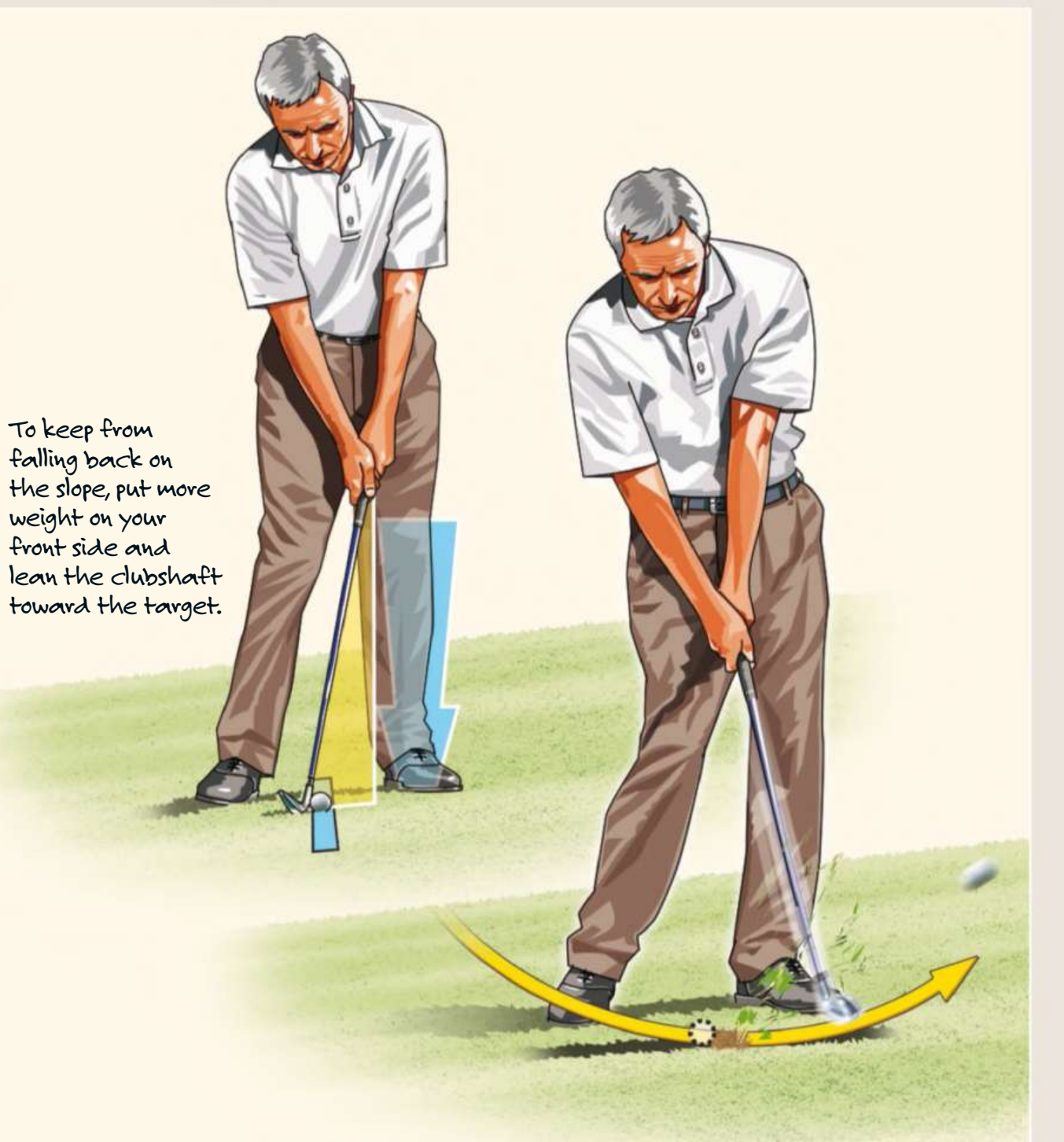
Most golfers find it difficult to get uphill approach shots to the hole. For one, it's a struggle to gauge how much yardage to add for the increased elevation, so the typical player doesn't take enough club. What's more, it's easy to "hang back" (fail to make a proper weight shift) on these shots in order to help the ball into the air. That makes matters worse, and shots tend to come up well

short of the flag. These simple keys will help you hit uphill approaches stiff, no matter how steep the hole is playing.

AIM FOR THE 'BACK OF THE RIM'

One rule of thumb is to take an extra club (say, a 7-iron vs. an 8-iron) for every 10 yards of elevation change, but that's a lot of math. Keep it simple and think like a basketball player. In hoops,

a popular shooting technique is to aim for the back of the rim—you'll adjust, and the ball will land just short of the rim. Swish! The back of the green is your "rim." Simply calculate the yardage and choose a club that gets there. Perfect contact means you're putting from the rear of the green, and most mishits will still find the green. It's all downhill from here!



To keep from falling back on the slope, put more weight on your front side and lean the clubshaft toward the target.

HIT THE BOTTOM OF THE BALL

To avoid hanging back and hitting this shot heavy, play the ball in the center of your stance, with your weight favoring your front foot. Lean the clubshaft toward the target and get your hands slightly ahead of the ball. These setup adjustments will encourage you to contact the bottom of the ball and tear up some turf just

past it (rather than several inches behind it). At impact, your head should be even with the ball and your hands just slightly ahead of the clubhead, as they were at address. If you focus on making the proper club and setup adjustments for an uphill approach, you'll make a solid strike and get home every time.

At impact, you want your head even with the ball, and the clubhead should make contact with the bottom of the ball.



POWER HITTER

You hit the ball a long way, but your game needs control and consistency.

STEP 1: To determine your line, stand directly behind the ball and perpendicular to the putt's starting line. Hold the putter out in front of you with your dominant hand.



STEP 2: Walk in from behind the ball. Use your dominant hand to set the putterhead on the ground so that the face points at your target—all while keeping your eyes on your intended line.

Be Clutch from 15 Feet and Beyond

In his victory in March at the Valspar Championship, Jordan Spieth holed a clutch 15-foot putt on the 72nd hole, then sank a 30-footer on the third playoff hole. That victory was just a sign of what was to come for Spieth, who made many mid-range putts en route to winning the Masters and the U.S. Open.

Let's look at a telling statistic on the greens. Through the U.S. Open, Spieth was converting nearly 25 percent of his putts from 15 to 20 feet, and an even higher percentage—28 percent—from 20 to 25 feet. How has he done it? For one, he doesn't settle for tap-ins. He tries to make everything. And he does a great job of setting the putterface

dead square to his starting line and aligning his body properly.

All great putters have great alignment. Poor, inconsistent putterface alignment is a big problem for everyday players. Try this simple, four-step routine, which can help you square the putter right from the start and hole out more putts from 15 feet and beyond.



STEP 3: With your eyes still locked on the target, take your stance, with your feet, knees, hips, forearms and shoulders all parallel to your intended line. Join your other hand to the grip. Don't move the putterface as you do this, or you'll need to readjust your aim.

STEP 4: Now you can move your head. Glance down at the ball to see that your putterface is still aligned square, take one final look at the hole to reaffirm your feel for the distance, and pull the trigger. Once you become efficient at this routine, you'll start to see a lot more 15- and 25-footers drop.





HIGH HANDICAPPER

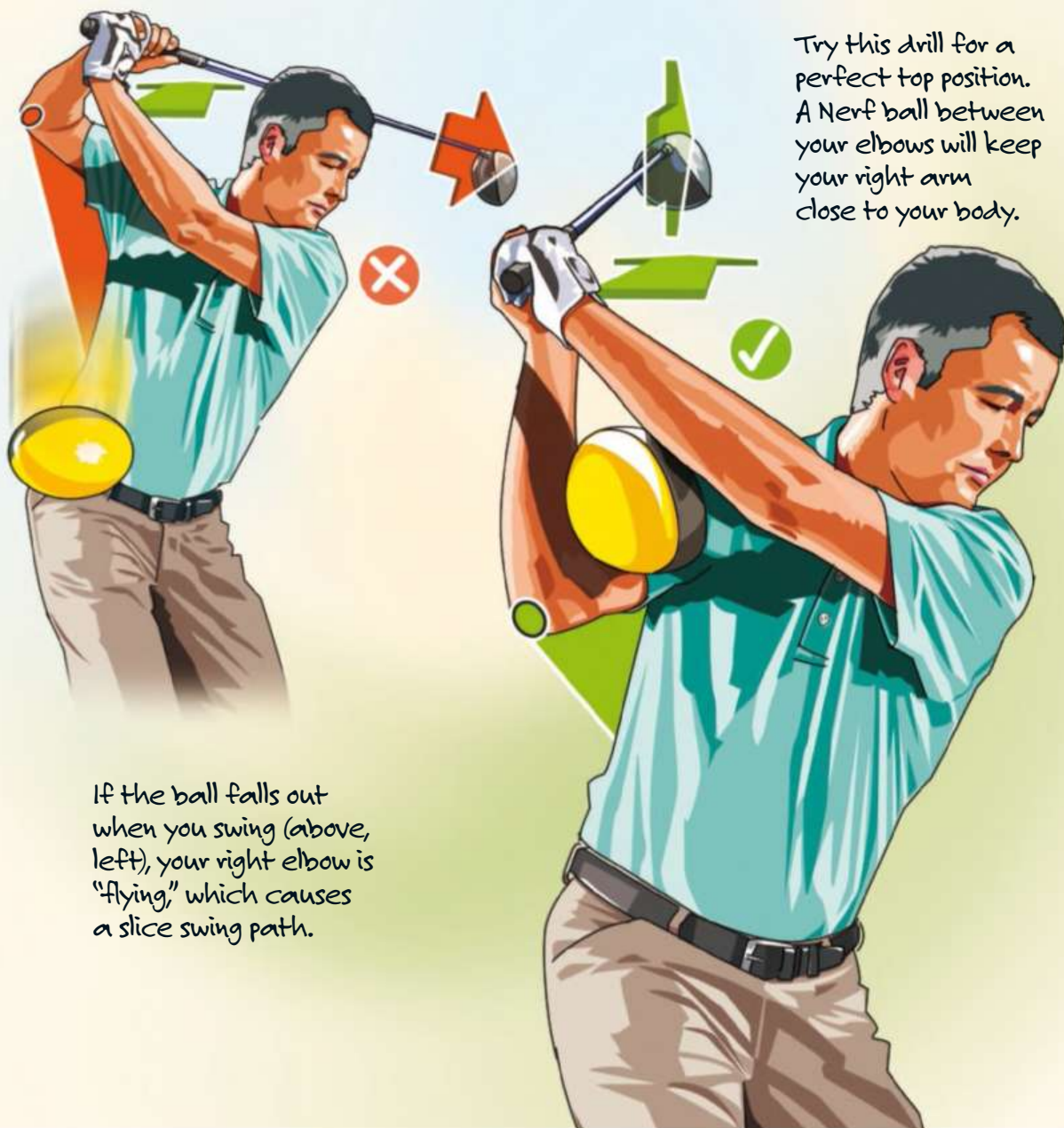
You have potential but must solve some fundamental problems.

Ditch Your Slice Once and For All

Many slicers make the mistake of overswinging and “crossing the line” at the top of their backswing. This causes the right elbow to fly out and the clubhead to point right of the target at the top. From this position, you’ll likely swing over the top on the downswing, cut across the ball and hit a high, weak shot to the right.

To prevent the club from swinging past parallel, wedge a Nerf football between your elbows and make a few practice swings,

keeping your elbows together so that the ball doesn’t fall out. Be sure to complete your backswing with a full wrist hinge. If you can maintain the same distance between your elbows, your right elbow will remain close to your body and your arms will stop at the top right where you want them. The clubshaft will stop parallel to, or just short of, the target line—not to the right of it. Hit this position, and you’ll replace your banana balls with bazooka blasts.



Try this drill for a perfect top position. A Nerf ball between your elbows will keep your right arm close to your body.

If the ball falls out when you swing (above, left), your right elbow is “flying,” which causes a slice swing path.



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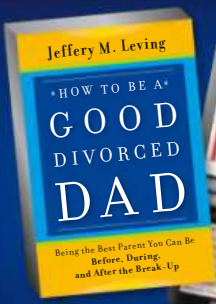



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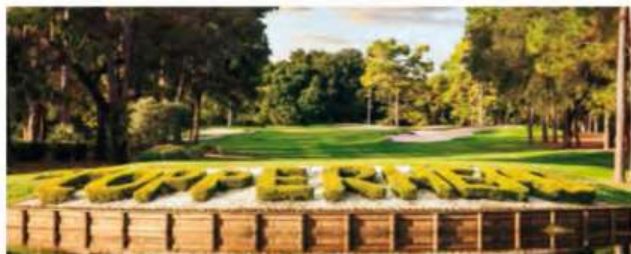
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Trump's Other Campaign

Every day and night, on Highway 42 in southern New Jersey, thousands of motorists see an unlikely government-approved road sign, the kind usually reserved for hospitals and museums, and not for country clubs. Whoever was behind its planting knows people in high places.

TRUMP
NATIONAL
GOLF CLUB
NEXT EXIT

The exit takes you to the Blackwood-Clementon Road, and to Trump National, in Pine Hill. The club's driveway is close to a mile, uphill, from the road to the sprawling clubhouse. On a recent muggy day I saw a heavy-set, black-haired woman in polyester black pants and matching shirt hiking up it. I asked the woman, clearly reporting for a work shift, if she wanted a ride. My passenger, newly arrived from Mexico, put on her seat belt. My full-blast air conditioning circulated her syrupy perfume. She spoke little English. Her job, she said, was "cleaner." I asked her what everyone must ask her: "Have you ever met Mr. Trump?"

I have met Mr. Trump, many times. I have played a lot of golf with him, eaten meals with him, and have enjoyed being with him. After I wrote a long profile of him in 2007 for SI, he said, "Michael, you wrote that story with a lot of like. I cannot say love, as there is nothing homosexual going on here." Trump is odd, smart, funny, observant, bombastic and original. I take almost nothing he says too seriously.

That's one reason why I wouldn't vote for him for president. I do think he would make a good LPGA commissioner. (The Tour job would be too straitlaced for him.) As for the presidency, I doubt he really wants it. It would be unbearable for him, to put

Donald Trump is so entrenched in golf that it makes you wonder: Does he really want to trade his courses for the Oval Office?



his 20 or so golf courses, each bearing his all-caps surname, in a blind trust. Trump is doing what he's done all his life. He's selling those five letters. I once said to him that he was lucky that his name was not *Finkelstein* or *O'Shaughnessy*, as those names do not trip off the tongue with the ease of his own, with all those heavy consonants. Plus, TRUMP is a double entendre. It's bold. It's for winners.

In a period when he and Rosie O'Donnell were feuding daily and monopolizing Page Six of the *New York Post*, I said to Trump, "This thing with Rosie, you're loving it, aren't you?"

"Michael," he said. Insert your version of his working-class Queens accent here. "Rosie O'Donnell is the gift that keeps giving."

After his vulgar, entitled and absurdly broad comments about Mexican immigrants, there was much hand-wringing among golf's crack

bureaucrats about how to censure the man. Trump courses are scheduled for LPGA, PGA Tour, USGA and PGA of America events. As a token gesture, the PGA of America changed the venue for one made-for-TV exhibition, leaving (for now) a host of other events from various schedules on Trump courses, including the 2022 PGA Championship at the perfectly fine Trump course in Bedminster, N.J.

In the coming months, Trump will likely continue to work blue, or worse, whenever he feels he's being ignored or attacked. My suggestion to golf's chieftains, remembering Bush 41: Stay the course. You signed on with Trump because he's a TV show and his courses have ample parking. He'll deliver what you want. Changing venues sounds like a grand gesture but won't suddenly make the game progressive, because it's not.

The Scots say golf undresses a man. Well, Trump's a good but delusional golfer. He remains mildly annoyed at me for excluding a reference (in my SI story) to a 68 he said he had shot at Bel-Air in L.A. He had told me to check out the score with his playing partners. I did. One of the guys said that Trump played well, but with all the usual casual-game informalities, he could never call it anything like a 68.

I once asked Trump what was actually important to him. "Family. Health things. Some things in business." He paused for a second. "That's about it."

Back in Pine Hill, I dropped off my perfumed passenger at the top of the hill.

"God bless you," she said.

The woman's lord had followed her from Mexico to this swath of greenery, and now she was passing him along to me. How kind, how generous.

A moment earlier, I had asked what she thought of Trump.

"He loco," she said.

Like a fox. —Michael Bamberger



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